

No 61,830

THE TIMES  
Tomorrow

Through the gap  
FA Cup finalists Wat-  
ford, the team that went  
from nowhere to the top  
under manager Graham  
Taylor



## Shirt tales

Suzi Menkes looks at  
what's new in shirt  
fashions  
**On his Owen**  
One man and his party:  
Peter Kellner on Dr  
David Owen  
**East side story**  
Computer Horizons  
visits Tokyo to meet the  
family man who has  
become Japan's Mr Fifth  
Generation

Chernenko  
is ill  
say envoys

West European diplomats said  
yesterday that President Chernenko  
had appeared "in poor  
shape" during talks with King  
Juan Carlos of Spain last  
Thursday and Friday.  
They said Mr Chernenko,  
aged 72, had to be helped out of  
his car by aides who supported  
him under each elbow.  
The scene was reminiscent of  
Mr Andropov's state of health  
this time last year.

## Bodies exhumed

The bodies of two young  
Palestinians killed after they  
hijacked an Israeli bus have  
been exhumed for autopsies as  
part of an investigation into  
their deaths.

## Cenotaph place

Dr David Owen, the Social  
Democratic Party leader, is  
expected to win his campaign to  
be allowed to lay a wreath at the  
Cenotaph in London on Sunday.

## Cyprus rebuff

The UN Security Council has  
issued a strongly worded con-  
demnation of attempts by  
Turkish Cypriots to consolidate  
their self-proclaimed state in the  
north of the island.

## Libyan claims

The Foreign Office yesterday  
dismissed as "absurd" Libyan  
claims that the British  
Government helped anti-  
Gaddafi terrorists living in  
Britain.

## Punjab riots

Rioting spread throughout  
Punjab and the neighbouring  
state of Haryana after a Hindu  
editor was shot and killed by  
Sikh extremists in Jullundur at  
the weekend.

## Teachers' pay

Employers on the teachers' pay  
negotiating body are expected to  
seek ways of breaking the pay  
talks deadlock over the next few  
days.

## Laker action

The Director General of Fair  
Trading has stepped into a long-  
running dispute over re-im-  
bursement of travellers after the  
Laker Airways collapse.

## Faldo's encore

Nick Faldo won the £100,000  
Car Care Plan International at  
Moortown for the second  
successive year, beating Howard  
Clark by one shot.

## Leader page 15

Letters: On Northern Ireland  
from Mr J. E. Hamilton; the  
miners from Mr Joe Ashton,  
MP; the Olympics from Dom  
D. Moriand, OSB and others.  
Leading articles: Hongkong;  
Cyprus; London marathon.  
Features: pages 12-14.

Labour and the miners' strike:  
the top brass in Heseltine's  
sights; why the big top is caving  
in; to lie or not to lie? Specrum:  
the Bounty sails again. Monday  
page: divorce, American-style  
Gatwick Express.

A Special Report marks the  
opening of British Rail's non-  
stop rail service between  
Victoria and Gatwick airport.

## Obituary, page 16

Mr David Verey, Mr Bertram  
Nelson.  
Classified, pages 27 to 30.  
The crime de la crime, careers  
horizons and education ap-  
pointments.

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Unita frees British  
hostages after  
visit by diplomat

From Michael Hornsby, Jamba, Unita headquarters in Angola

The 16 Britons and one  
Portuguese taken hostage on  
February 23 by Angolan in-  
surgents were handed over here  
at the weekend to Sir John Leahy,  
a special Foreign Office envoy,  
after 79 days in captivity.  
They were flown to Johan-  
nesburg yesterday afternoon in  
a C130 transport aircraft hired  
from the South Africans, and  
are due to fly home to Britain  
tonight.

Sir John, the most senior  
British diplomat concerned  
with African affairs, took them  
into his custody amid tribal  
singing and dancing at a  
midnight ceremony on Saturday  
in a makeshift stadium at  
guerrilla headquarters here.

After three hours of talks with  
Dr Jonas Savimbi, the leader of  
the Unita movement, and his  
top political and military aides,  
Sir John said he had been sug-  
gested to him before he left Britain that  
it was humiliating to have to go  
and beg for the release of British  
citizens. "I have not had to beg  
for anything today, and if this is  
humiliation, I can take a lot  
more of it," he declared to  
cheers.

In the circumstances, the 17  
hostages - 16 men and one  
Portuguese wife of one of them  
- looked remarkably well. All  
said they had been well treated  
by their Unita captors, who had  
done what they could to  
mitigate their ordeal.

For 32 days of their captivity  
they were force-marched

through 300 miles of inhospitable bush in constant fear of  
counter-attack by Angolan  
Government forces.

The Britons were originally  
part of a larger group of  
foreigners captured during a  
Unita attack on Kafunfo, a  
diamond mining town in north-  
eastern Angola. They were  
working there under contract to  
British-based companies. The  
other captives were set free last  
month, but Dr Savimbi con-  
tinued to hold the British group  
because of dissatisfaction with  
Britain's attitude towards  
Unita.

A series of meetings ensued  
between Unita representatives  
and Foreign Office officials in  
London. Dr Savimbi wanted a  
Government minister to come  
out to his "provisional capital",  
while London was initially only  
prepared to send a Conservative  
MP. Sir John was the eventual  
compromise choice in a diplo-  
matically delicate situation for  
Britain, which recognises the  
Marxist regime in Luanda as

the legal Government of  
Angola.

Sir John flew by helicopter  
into the "liberated zone of free  
Angola", as Unita calls the  
south-eastern third of the  
country which it claims to  
control, from an airstrip in  
northern Namibia, with a little  
help from the South African  
military authorities. He spent  
the night at Jamba in a well-  
appointed thatched-and-reed hut  
as Dr Savimbi's guest and flew  
back to South Africa yesterday  
morning.

Dr Savimbi is well-known for  
his grasp of the importance of  
public relations, and an inter-  
national group of journalists  
was also flown into Angola for  
the occasion.

The last leg of our journey to  
Jamba was a bone-shaking nine-  
hour lorry drive through the  
dense bush which gave some  
inkling of the discomforts  
suffered by the hostages during  
their 800-mile journey south  
from Kafunfo to Jamba.

Dr Savimbi, a bearded figure  
in crisp camouflage uniform  
and red beret, with a pistol at  
his hip and a black, ivory-hand-  
led cane in his right hand, told  
us that Unita "considers" Sir  
John's visit a victory. They  
(the British) didn't take us  
seriously. They ignored the  
presence of Unita. The fact is  
that I am not going to stop  
fighting. I am still advancing,  
and more British citizens could  
be at risk."

Earlier, at an arrival cer-  
emony, he said.

Sir John Leahy (left)  
and Dr Savimbi

Flight to freedom: The freed British hostages stepping onto the tarmac at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport on the first leg of their flight home.

MPs puzzled  
by arrest  
of Heseltine  
aideBy Philip Webster  
Political Reporter

Colleagues of Mr Keith  
Hampson, the Conservative  
MP for Leeds North West, were  
saddened yesterday by the news  
of his resignation as parlia-  
mentary secretary to Mr  
Michael Heseltine, the Secretary  
of State for Defence, and  
mystified by the circumstances  
surrounding it.

His resignation was offered  
and accepted in a telephone  
conversation with Mr Heseltine  
at lunchtime on Saturday, a few  
hours after the minister had  
learned of Mr Hampson's arrest  
11 days ago for allegedly  
making an indecent assault on a  
plainclothes policeman in a  
London male strip club.

Mr Heseltine had been in-  
formed of the alleged incident  
at about 9.15am on Saturday by  
a senior official in the Defence  
Ministry's press department,  
who had been contacted by the  
*Sunday Telegraph* and told  
about the arrest, which took  
place in the Gay Theatre, in  
Soho, on May 3.

Mr Heseltine was said to  
have been staggered by the  
news. Downing Street was  
informed about the incident late  
on Friday, when unsuccessful  
attempts were made to contact  
Mr Heseltine.

Government officials were  
adamant yesterday that there  
were no security implications in  
the affair.

The Government, however,  
will be asked why Mr Heseltine  
was not informed sooner. It was  
pointed out that Mr Hampson  
could have told him, and had  
not done so, but some MPs  
were saying that it was wrong  
and embarrassing that the  
Government should apparently  
have found out as a result of  
newspaper inquiries.

Scotland Yard said yesterday  
that there was no "formal  
channel" for informing govern-  
ment departments if MPs were  
arrested.

The predominant feeling  
among MPs yesterday was one  
of shock and sympathy at the  
predicament of Mr Hampson,  
who is highly popular in the  
House of Commons.

Mr Hampson, aged 40 and  
married, was alleged to have  
indecently assaulted a plain-  
clothes policeman from Scot-  
land Yard's club squad who was  
on duty with a woman col-  
league. He was arrested, taken to  
a police station and released  
pending a report to the Metro-  
politan Police solicitors' depart-  
ment. He was not charged.

Mr Hampson said that he  
had resigned to avoid embar-  
rassment to Mr Heseltine and  
the Government "because of  
personal problems" resulting  
from one night a week or so ago  
when I was totally fed up and  
drank far too much."

Pit strikers widen  
blockade to  
oil-fired stations

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Striking miners are intensify-  
ing their action against power  
stations, particularly oil-fired  
generating sites, and further  
restrictions on the movement of  
coal are likely.

These are the latest moves in  
the pit stoppage, which today  
enters its tenth week with a  
mass demonstration in Mans-  
field, heart of the moderate  
Nottinghamshire coalfield,  
where most miners are defying  
the call for industrial action.

The first results of the new  
campaign against power sta-  
tions were seen yesterday at  
Ramsgate, in Kent, where more  
than 30 local miners were  
arrested on a picket line at the  
harbour. More than 200 pitmen  
gathered to prevent the transfer  
of 2,000 tonnes of oil from a  
tanker to the Richborough  
power station, which was itself  
picketed.

The National Union of  
Mineworkers is calling for a  
maximum turnout of miners  
and their supporters at today's  
march and rally. Union leaders  
believe that police, who have  
effectively cordoned off Not-  
tinghamshire for more than two  
months, will relax their road-  
blocks so that striking pitmen  
from Yorkshire, Derbyshire and  
other areas, can take part.

A union official last night  
promised "a massive show of  
unity", and tens of thousands of  
striking miners could be on the  
streets. But the union added: "Our  
aim will not be to intimidate but  
to shame Nottinghamshire miners  
into joining us. Our fight is their  
fight, but a lot of them do not  
seem to realize that yet."

Mr Arthur Scargill, the  
miners' president, will today  
reaffirm his call to men in the  
coalfield who have been work-  
ing to join the stoppage over pit  
closures.

Moves to step up the  
blockade of power stations were  
disclosed in a speech in  
Kirkcaldy on Saturday by Mr  
Eric Clarke, secretary of the  
Scottish miners.

There are further indications  
that the dispute is expected to  
run for many more weeks. The  
National Coal Board has ad-  
vised Buckingham Palace that  
arrangements for the Queen to  
open the Selby "super pit" in  
Yorkshire on June 29 will have  
to be shelved.

Striking miners and the  
board have reached agreement  
to start work today to save  
Wolston colliery, in north  
Staffordshire in what the board  
described as "a victory for  
common sense" (our Stoke-on-  
Trent Correspondent writes).

The board had said that the  
pit faced permanent shutdown  
at the end of the month unless  
shaft maintenance work was  
carried out.

Police roadblocks used to  
stop miners reaching picket  
lines could be illegal, Inspector  
Bob Lax, of the South York-  
shire Police Federation, said.  
The federation would like the  
law tested in court (our  
Sheffield Correspondent  
writes).

Labour on the spot, page 14  
Letters, page 15

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The joy and  
agony of  
London's  
marathon

By Alan Hamilton

They had turned off the  
clock and were taking down the  
finishing line because the  
police wanted to reopen the  
street, as the final stragglers  
in the fourth London Marathon  
limped, hobbled, walked or  
jogged their aching joints on  
the Westminster Bridge yester-  
day.

Big Ben was showing a mite  
after 5.30pm and the winners  
had trodden those last desper-  
ate yards nearly six hours  
earlier. But it did not matter.  
An official was still on duty  
with a handful of beribboned  
medals, and there was applause  
from the few remaining spec-  
tators.

The only records to be  
broken by that time were  
personal records of bloodied  
but unbowed determination.

It was not a day of broken  
records, except that the 18,469  
competitors crossing the start-  
ing line at Greenwich made it  
the world's biggest race, at  
least until next year. However,  
Ingrid Kristiansen, from Nor-  
way, the first woman to finish,  
achieved a time of 2hr 24min  
26sec, making it the second  
fastest female marathon run in  
history.

She ran in world cross-  
country championships at  
Gateshead last year without  
realizing she was three months  
pregnant. She started training  
for London 10 days after the  
birth.

Priscilla Welsh of Kingston  
upon Thames, the second

SDP backs  
working  
minersFrom Julian Haviland  
and Tony Hodges  
Edinburgh

A motion strongly critical of  
Mr Arthur Scargill and the  
miners' leadership was debated  
by the Social Democratic  
Party's policy-making council  
in Edinburgh yesterday, but  
withdrawn after members criti-  
cized it as one-sided.

In an emergency debate on  
the miners' dispute members  
condemned intimidation of  
miners who wish to work. But  
they also criticized police road-  
blocks and the Government's  
refusal to intervene in the  
dispute.

Mr William Rodgers, the  
party's vice-president, said the  
Government should accept  
responsibility for dealing with  
the human and social problems  
of pit closures.

The council passed a motion  
supporting Leicestershire and  
Nottinghamshire miners in  
their determination to work on.

On Saturday the council  
informally adopted the Alliance  
platform for last month's  
European elections, jointly  
constructed with the Liberals.

The document argues that the  
real crisis of the European  
Community is not agricultural  
but industrial. The Alliance  
parties have no qualms about  
increasing community spending  
by first raising the value-added  
tax ceiling and then seeking  
other sources of taxation. They  
say this need not mean in-  
creases in British taxation.

They say they are alone  
among British parties in looking  
for "an ever-closer union  
among the peoples of Europe",  
and they want the use of the  
national veto in the Council of  
Ministers to be severely  
restricted.

Conference report and man-  
ifesto, page 4

## BUSINESS NEWSFLASH

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## Special umpires called in for McEnroe

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Hamburg

John McEnroe's debut in the  
World Team Cup competition  
at Dusseldorf from May 21 to  
27 has induced the organizers to  
install the umpiring equivalent  
of an intensive care unit. The  
sympathetic expertise of Mike  
Lugg (Britain), Peter Kasavoge  
(United States) and possibly  
Man Cox (Britain) will re-in-  
force the regular team of  
certified officials.

These imported, widely ex-  
perienced umpires know their  
stuff. They also know their  
McEnroe - and speak the same  
language. Their presence should  
tend to test the umpire's  
knowledge and character more  
than most. The same sort of

thing happens in other pro-  
fessional sports.

Keith Johnson, the Grand  
Prix supervisor in Hamburg,  
said yesterday: "It's a question  
of quality. We always want to  
have the best officials and  
experience is always desirable  
when dealing with potentially  
difficult matches."

The name of the game is  
controlling the match - and that  
means controlling the players.  
McEnroe is not the type of  
player to whom German um-  
pires are accustomed. Like  
McEnroe, these umpires should  
welcome a little help from  
English-speaking experts.

Dusseldorf will provide  
McEnroe with competitive  
stress on European clay im-  
mediately before the  
supreme clay-court test, the  
French Open championships. No  
American has won the French  
men's title since Tony Trabert  
did so in 1955. But McEnroe is  
playing the best tennis of his  
career, Dusseldorf will be an  
ideal preparation for Paris, and  
the players who contested last  
year's French final, Yannick  
Noah, and Mats Wilander, have  
both been beaten here during  
that delightful festival, the  
German championships.

German championships, page 24



## Teachers' Employers make new attempt to end pay deadlock

By Colin Hughes

Employers on the teachers' pay negotiating body are expected to seek ways of breaking the deadlock in pay talks over the next few days.

Mrs Nikki Harrison, chairman of the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities' representatives on the employers' panel, has said that she is considering calling for a meeting of all the employers' representatives.

She could not specify possible avenues to a solution of the pay dispute, which is causing disruption to thousands of schools, but Mr Philip Merridale, chairman of the panel and leader of the dominant Conservative-controlled Association of County Councils' block, said yesterday that he would agree to any substantial proposal for fresh discussions among employers' leaders.

Mr Merridale was also more conciliatory in tone towards the teachers than he has been since they rejected a 4.5 per cent pay offer and began a work-to-rule two weeks ago. He conceded yesterday that teachers had a strong case for recognition of their professional status.

He said that teachers had written to him that they were taking action because they no longer received the public esteem they felt they deserved.

and saw their pay levels as a "warranty" of that esteem.

Mr Merridale believed that teachers were aware that they appeared to be fighting to win more than the 4.5 per cent which their colleagues in Scotland and in further education have accepted already, but they were in fact seeking to break out of the low-pay trap.

"It is a view we understand", Mr Merridale said. "The tragedy is that the timing of this dispute will not help to win improvement for the 100,000 or so teachers who are stuck in a promotion cul-de-sac."

He repeated his belief that the teachers' best hopes of improving their pay lay in restructuring salary scales, and that the present action over this year's pay threatened hopes of "marketing" a restructuring package to the Government and the public.

Mr Merridale's remarks are unlikely to cut any ice with teachers' union leaders, who doubt that the Government would provide much extra money for restructuring next year. Talks on restructuring are continuing in spite of the present dispute, and both sides are keen to present the Government with proposals by the end of next month.

The teachers' side, however, is suspicious of several key points, apart from the question of how much extra cash will be provided. Restructuring would introduce assessment tests for teachers before they could move on to higher salary scales, and the Government wants changes in teachers' contracts to make many voluntary duties obligatory.

A more likely route by which the employers could resolve the dispute is a small additional offer spread among lower-paid teachers, backed by a commitment to win more funds for restructuring.

The unions' position is that there must be an improved offer or arbitration to settle the dispute, but yesterday's remarks made clear that both Mrs Harrison and Mr Merridale, on separate sides, of the management panel, are looking for a way of bringing union leaders back to the negotiating table without loss of face on either side.

If the employers do meet, their next step would be to approach the pay body's independent chairman, Sir John Wordie, asking him to reconvene the full Burnham Committee for renewed talks.

## Lords plea to boost EEC coal production

By Frances Williams

Strong support for continuing Britain's advanced gas-cooled nuclear reactor programme (AGRs) and for greater investment in European and especially British coal production comes in a report on EEC energy policy published yesterday by the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities.

The committee speaks of the dangers of European over-reliance on the pressurised water reactor (PWR) technology for nuclear electricity generation - the design used for almost all the newly-built reactors in other EEC countries and adopted in a controversial decision by the British Government for the proposed Sizewell B station in Suffolk.

To rely only on PWRs could have one grave disadvantage, the committee argues. "If even one PWR should have an accident or repeat the incident at Three Mile Island, public opinion might swing against the whole nuclear programme."

The only proven alternative is the British-designed AGR of the type now operating at Hinkley Point, Somerset, the committee says, describing it as "a model of efficiency". After years of problems with reactor construction, two AGRs now being built are expected to be completed on time and within budget, the report adds.

The committee argues that nuclear power and coal together must meet the EEC's future energy needs.

In a passage likely to be seized on by both sides in the present coal dispute, the committee says that there is a strong case for spending more to maximise European coal production "to the extent that this can be done economically", adding that Britain provides the best prospects for profitable production.

The report also suggests the building of more gas and electricity grids connecting EEC countries, including the controversial proposals for a gas pipeline links with Norway and the Soviet Union.

More effort to reduce dependence on imported oil. What little progress there has been is due to the recession, it says.

Environmental fears to be balanced against "enormous advantages and convenience" of reasonably priced energy.

A study of the comparative safety and environmental hazards of nuclear power and other sources which would both reassure and inform public opinion.

European Community Energy Strategy and objectives. Seventeenth report of the House of Lords European Communities Committee, Session 1983-84, HL 208 (Stationery Office £7.45).



Flying test: Amanda Morgan with Dr Ian Dalziel, her pilot, yesterday.

## A day at an air show

Amanda Morgan, aged 14, who has a spinal tumour, was more worried about a flight to the United States than the complex life-saving operation she will undergo there.

So yesterday the RAF helped her get over her first flight nerves by treating her to a day at an air show and then taking her for a flight

in a wartime passenger aircraft.

Amanda of Steam Mills, Cinderford, Gloucestershire, has a tumour running the length of her spine.

An American surgeon, Dr Fred Epstein of New York, has promised to carry out the operation free and an appeal fund has been set up to raise money

## Heseltine's new plans for defence

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Mr Michael Heseltine presents to Parliament today his second annual statement on the defence estimate since he became Secretary of State for Defence 17 months ago.

The main thrust of the White Paper will concern his determination to get better value for the £17,000m which Britain is spending on defence this year. He will point to steps he has taken to sharpen competition for defence contracts and to studies which may lead to more defence work being given to private contractors and to streamline the command and administrative structures of the armed forces.

Different strands of government policy are producing a conflict now over the placing of contracts for the construction of two Type-22 frigates for the Royal Navy. Three shipyards are believed to have bid for this work: Vospers Thornycroft near Portsmouth, Swan Hunter on Tyne and Cammell Laird on Merseyside.

Air Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is believed to be urging that the order be given to Vospers.

Heseltine off target, page 14

## Jobs worry for Scots Tories

By Ronald Faux

Looming behind the rousing rhetoric and the insistent pledges that government policy was "winning through" were three issues causing unease among Scottish Conservatives at their conference in Perth at the weekend.

The first was that central Scotland seems likely to be hit soon by further unemployment if, as expected, the Leyland truck factory at Bathgate closes with the loss of 1,750 jobs.

Secondly, the Government admitted that it has failed to impress voters with its achievements and is unable to stop bad economic news from drowning the good. All the Prime Minister could do was to encourage individual enterprise, point optimistically at the growing number of foreign firms setting up in Scotland and admit that she could not say when the next opening in the market place would come.

Worst of all was the result of the recent local elections in Scotland, when the Conservatives were severely defeated. There are achievements for which the Conservatives believe they should be more widely congratulated: action against high-spending councils, sales of council houses.

Home improvements: 1

How the grants tap was turned off

Home improvement grants have increased dramatically in the past five years with the active encouragement of the Government. Now the Government has turned the tap off by reducing the maximum available for a grant, and many local authorities have called a halt to new grants.

CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, Property Correspondent, describes how the policy has come unstuck.

lost its housing action status because of the council's failure to renew it.

These examples illustrate the "hit and miss" system of home improvement grants, the distribution of which depends on the council's policy and its ability to administer a scheme which has become increasingly complicated.

During the past few years the Government has given strong encouragement to local authorities to spend as much of their housing allocations as possible on renovation grants and has stimulated public demand for such grants as a means of improving the housing stock.

The incentive was increased in 1982 when the Government

raised grants to 90 per cent, but that has now been reduced again to 75 per cent, and the Government has also reduced housing allocations for local authorities. The higher rate still applies for those suffering financial hardship.

Announcing the reduction, Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction, explained that by making the change the Government would be concentrating the limited amount of taxpayer's money on those in greatest need.

He said: "The maintenance and improvement of our housing stock is of the greatest long-term importance for all of us. But taxpayers' money is not unlimited."

He emphasized that the private sector, as well as the public sector, had a responsibility, and pointed out that in the 1970s spending on improvements and repairs to privately owned housing from loans or savings was estimated to be 30 times more than from grants.

The fact is that after stimulating demand, the Government is turning off the tap, leaving long

## Engineers call for £1bn investment in hydroelectric power

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's civil engineering industry has called for a £1,000m investment programme to double hydro-electricity generation in northern Scotland. It says money could be raised by an index-linked government bond.

As a first stage, the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors today urges the Government to hold a new inquiry into the practicality of increasing significantly Britain's hydro-power capacity.

It says that for more than 20 years about 1,000 megawatts (MW) of technical hydro capacity have been available for development - a similar amount to that already generated by the North of Scotland Hydroelectric Board.

Yet, because of the economic attraction of thermal power stations in the 1960s, no new big schemes have been approved.

In a report suggesting the inquiry, 22 years after the Mackenzie report identified the potential, the federation says: "Hydro-power generation offers major advantages over other forms of generation as regards environment, fuel diversification, employment, export earnings and technological progress, together with substantial cost advantages."

The federation says the hydro board has carried out intensive development, "but it is clear that this resource should not only be carefully nurtured but

exploited to the fullest possible degree."

In 1963 and 1964 the board listed four sites in remote areas of northern Scotland that were "under investigation" and "others said to be under survey."

These and sites being investigated could have generated an estimated 640MW. The federation emphasises that some of the schemes has been initiated.

Mr Jim Stevenson, the federation chairman, said that while 1,000MW might be equal to only one new thermal station, the savings would be considerable. It costs 0.7p to generate one unit from hydro power, against 4p for power from fossil fuels.

The federation believes the financing of new schemes would be beyond the means of the highly geared hydro board, particularly at a time of spending cuts.

The schemes under promotion in 1984, at Ners, Landon, Fada-Fionn and Loch a'Bhraoin - would now cost £100m and be large in relation to the board's £646m of assets. It says the index-linked bond could raise the funds.

The report is published at the same time as its latest world survey showing that, while the depressed industry has not experienced worsening conditions since the start of the year, companies are pessimistic about prospects.

Science Report, page 16

## City may put pressure on Liverpool

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

Liverpool, still without a budget six weeks into the financial year, faces a test of its creditworthiness in a fortnight as up to £250m worth of loans become due.

Liverpool City Council meets tomorrow but the Labour majority is threatening again to postpone the making of a 1984-85 budget.

That could leave the council treasurer, Mr Michael Reddington, with the task of persuading City of London institutions and banks to renew loans in the absence of income from rates as security.

If he failed and had to repay loans with the revenue Liverpool is still receiving from rents and government grants, the district auditor would be likely to intervene.

The courts might rule such payments illegal and either force the council to levy a rate or begin procedures that could lead to the disqualification from office of councillors who approved the payments - the Labour leaders.

Officials from the Chester district audit office, part of the Audit Commission for Local Government, have moved into Liverpool's municipal buildings and have an instant view of its transactions.

One irony of Liverpool's unprecedented financial position is that until this week the council's cash flow has been healthier than it might have been if a rate had been set.

The Department of the Environment - on orders from Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State, who wants to avoid a confrontation with Labour militants - has paid rate support grants every two weeks.

The grants are higher than they would be if any of the available budgets were passed.

In addition, tenants who pay a lump sum to the council for rent and rates are paying an amount for rates based on last year's figures.

## Land survey may mark anniversary

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

A new national land use survey may be commissioned in time for the nine hundredth anniversary of the Domesday book in two years. Talks about the full pilot survey in Leicestershire are being held between the Government and the independent Land Decade Educational Council.

Mr Graham Moss, chairman of the council, said yesterday that he hoped that Government and EEC money would help finance the pilot survey. The full survey is meant to provide a counterpart to the official census of the human population.

It will show how much land is farmed, and how much is used for housing, industry and institutions such as schools and hospitals. It may also show mineral workings and will be updated at least every 10 years. Ministers hope that it will give precise answers to contentious questions about the rate at which the countryside is being built up or turned over to intensive forestry.

The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry claimed yesterday that much of inner London was more deprived than Merseyside. The governing council of the chamber has decided today to ask ministers to declare parts of London an assisted area.

That would qualify them for extra state incentives for business investment and for EEC regional funds. The chamber said that the London boroughs of Hackney, Islington, Lambeth, Newham, Southwark and Tower Hamlet had "the worst concentration of deprivation in the country."

The number of people in work fell faster in the London boroughs than in Merseyside in the 1970s, the chamber said. In the past five years those out of work who were classed as "long-term unemployed" had almost reached the Merseyside level of 47 per cent.

## Whitehall recruiting shake-up urged

A radical shake-up of the Civil Service Commission and a strengthening of its 129-year-old role as a watchdog against political interference in Whitehall recruitment are recommended in an unpublished Rayner scrutiny which will be presented to ministers soon.

The investigation was carried out by Virginia Novarra, a principal officer on secondment from the Department of Trade and Industry. It found that clear responsibility for Whitehall recruitment policy was lacking, as it was split between the commission and the Management and Personnel Office (MPO).

The commission is praised as a repository of experience and a monument to incorruptibility. But the Novarra report produced a litany of shortcomings in management, motivation and accountability.

She recommends that the commission be given clear responsibility for recruitment policy. She found that greater cost effectiveness would be achieved if individual departments were charged for its services instead of getting them free, and that morale would be improved if the commission were encouraged to seek custom from quangos or departments looking for names to include on their lists of "the good and the great".

She comments unfavourably on the high staff wastage in the Civil Service. It cost almost £20,000 to recruit an administrative trainee, but a quarter resign within five years of joining a department. Clearer recruitment policy and improved research and follow-up would help.

Recruitment to the Civil Service is still based on the nineteenth century idea of a career for life she says. It has failed to adapt to greater mobility and changing patterns of employment including part-time work.

Suggested reforms include:

● The commission should be responsible for overall recruitment policy and should assume control within six months if possible.

● Costs should be assessed by making departments pay for services.

● More recruitment research and a vigorous attempt to cut down staff wastage.

● The commission's funding should be separated from that of MPO so that it could run more like a business and become more efficient, effective and accountable.

The constitutional position of the commission was outside her terms of reference. But she found its independence could be more secure and recommended that a separate investigation be undertaken.

## 'Scandal' of low church membership

The falling membership in the Church of Scotland is the sign of a "serious breakdown within the life of the Church" and a "scandal", the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will be told in a report called *Towards a National Programme for Evangelism* that the "tragic loss" of young people in the Church, is not simply a serious concern for the future of the Church, but a serious charge against a church which received children in baptism and failed to nurture their faith to mature discipleship.

The report claims that the breakdown within the Church stems from a lack of real conviction regarding the meaning of the Church and "it is symptomatic of the fact that we do not believe in the Church operating within the economy of salvation".

The report says the present situation is one of administrative and pastoral breakdown, and "the church's scandal is that of its missing members".

European Community Energy Strategy and objectives. Seventeenth report of the House of Lords European Communities Committee, Session 1983-84, HL 208 (Stationery Office £7.45).

Woodland destroyed

By a Staff Reporter

The fine weather brought fire havoc to some parts of England yesterday. The drop in reservoir levels caused by the exceptionally dry spring led to a ban on garden hoses in south-east Wales.

About 427,000 households are affected by the ban and it is probable that similar restrictions will be imposed in north Wales next weekend. The Welsh Water Authority said yesterday: "The water that people pour on their lawns today could be their pot of tea in September".

Thousands of trees over

three square miles were destroyed by a fire in Thetford Forest, Norfolk. More than 170 firemen fought it for three hours.

Another fire at Woodbury Common, Devon, destroyed about five square miles of scrubland.

Six arrested

Detectives investigating a house fire in Glasgow in which six members of a family died arrested five men and one woman on Saturday at different addresses in the city.

Dr Graham in Bristol at the start of his summer campaign in England.

4,000 respond to Billy Graham's campaign call

From Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent, Bristol

Dr Billy Graham began his summer campaign in England with two mass meetings at the Bristol football stadium at the weekend, each time drawing about 2,000 people to "come forward" to signify their conversion.

That was hailed by the organizers as an exceptional response. Saturday's crowd was estimated at 31,000 and yesterday's at 25,000. More than 500 coaches had brought them from within a 100 mile radius in the south-west of England.

It was a restrained crowd on both occasions, listening in silence to Dr Graham's address for nearly an hour before he came to his famous peroration: "I am going to ask you to get up out of your seats, and come forward, and stand in front of

this platform to say symbolically - I want to open my heart to Christ."

Each person coming forward was contacted by a counsellor, a church member trained to handle the encounter.

Dr Graham's address was a blend of spiritual homily and personal anecdotes, with such personal asides as the fact that his wife had done the carpentry in the house they had jointly built. It was emotionally low-key: there was no political message, although he referred in passing to poverty in Africa and the threat of nuclear war.

Mr Maurice Rowlandson, director of the Billy Graham (UK) Association, said: "It has been beyond our expectations."

In addition, the area has now

Home improvements: 1

How the grants tap was turned off

Home improvement grants have increased dramatically in the past five years with the active encouragement of the Government. Now the Government has turned the tap off by reducing the maximum available for a grant, and many local authorities have called a halt to new grants.

CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, Property Correspondent, describes how the policy has come unstuck.

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First refusal: A pair of blacks at the Royal Windsor Horse Show needing some encouragement to enter the water hazard. (Photographs: Ian Stewart).

## Bomb blast husband accused of murder

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Police yesterday charged Graham Backhouse with the attempted murder of his wife, Margaret, aged 37, and the murder of his neighbour, Mr Colyn Bedale-Taylor.

He will face magistrates at Yate, near Bristol, today. It is understood he was arrested on Saturday night.

The charges came after a month of intense police inquiries in Horton, near Bristol, into the incident in which Mrs Backhouse was severely injured by a car bomb as she reversed the family estate car out of the garage.

Three weeks later Mr Bedale-Taylor, aged 63, a retired personnel officer, died of two gunshot wounds he suffered at Mr Backhouse's 350-acre Widden Hill Farm.

Police had kept a constant watch on the farm since the bombing, which had been preceded by a hate campaign of anonymous telephone calls and poison pen letters apparently directed against Mr and Mrs Backhouse.

On one occasion the severed head of a lamb was discovered impaled on a farm fence post with a note underneath saying: "You next."

Last week Mrs Backhouse left a Bristol hospital, where she had undergone two major operations, to stay with her parents at Sedgley, near Wolverhampton.

Mr Backhouse, aged 43, issued a statement saying he needed to rest and did not wish to speak to anyone after leaving the hospital where he had been taken with knife wounds in the face suffered on the night Mr Bedale-Taylor died.

## Nail gun found

A 200-year-old cast iron gun like a small cannon has been found embedded in the trunk of a tree at Roughon, Norfolk. The gun loaded with nails and ball bearings, was used to shoot poachers.

## Credit card firms urged to pay Laker fare bills

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, has stepped into a long-running dispute over reimbursing travellers who lost money in the collapse of Laker Airways.

He is pressing particularly Barclaycard, the credit card subsidiary of Barclays Bank, to accept full legal liability for losses where credit card payment was involved.

More than two years after the Laker collapse, about 2,700 loss claims, amounting to about £1m, are believed to be outstanding from an initial £2,600 claims involving about £9m. Perhaps half of the outstanding claims involve credit card transactions.

Many earlier claims have been met by travel industry bonding arrangements, of the Air Travel Reserve Fund, which steps in when bonds deposited by a tour operator prove insufficient to meet losses.

But differences arose between credit card companies such as Access and Barclaycard and the Tour Operators Study Group

which took over administration of demands under the Laker bonding arrangements. The tour operators' group wanted the card companies to meet what it saw as their legal obligations under the Consumer Credit Act, which lays a liability on card companies where suppliers of goods or services default.

The card companies argued that payments should come first from the travel industry's bonding and other arrangements specifically set up to protect travellers.

Later, Access, without admitting liability, reimbursed travellers who paid by credit card, up to the amount of the card transaction. It was only at the beginning of last month that Barclaycard said it would now be doing the same for anybody not being paid from elsewhere, while still not accepting legal liability.

But the Office of Fair Trading's view on card company liability is that it can extend to the whole of a

traveller's loss, even if only part of the transaction was paid by credit card.

Attempts by the Civil Aviation Authority to agree a charter with the card companies, the tour operators' group and the reserve fund to meet all claims on a "rough justice" payments basis have so far failed.

One of Sir Gordon's anxieties is that, if the situation cannot be clarified, travellers affected by a travel company collapse in the future could be even more exposed. There have been increasing worries that there might be too big a drain on the reserve fund's resources.

Barclaycard has made one new move. It is renegotiating terms with tour operators on card payments for holidays, insisting that the operators should have approved insurance cover to ensure cardholders are reimbursed for any losses.

That raises the question of how far consumers may eventually foot the bill for several layers of protection.

## Banker's inquest to open

After a delay of 11 months the inquest opens today into the mysterious death of Dennis Skinner, the British banker who was said by his wife to be working in Moscow as a double agent for MI6.

Four diplomats from the British embassy in Moscow will attend the hearing in Croydon to give evidence. Mr Skinner, aged 54, a representative of the Midland Bank, was killed when he fell from his 11th floor apartment in Moscow last June.

The inquest obtained a "stay" on the inquest and although Dr McHugh agreed to hold the hearing in public no agreement was reached with the newspaper. As a result the High Court ruled in March that the inquest should proceed without delay and, calling Dr McHugh "a mistress of discourses", said her employer, the Greater London Council, should pay costs which could rise to £10,000.

## Parent management of schools proposed

By Colin Hughes

Proposals to hand over the management of state-funded schools to boards of elected parents are published today by the Adam Smith Institute.

The institute's report supports speculation that the Government is considering measures to increase competition, selection and independence of schools within the state sector. Its document is known to be close to ministerial thinking.

The institute suggests that new boards, with a majority of parents and non-voting seats for the head teachers, teachers and local community representatives, would have broad powers to decide school curriculum, disciplinary measures and teachers' salaries.

The most radical proposal is for schools to be financed through a fixed grant for each pupil attending the school. Schools would be free to recruit new pupils and compete for applications from parents for

their child to enter a preferred school.

The institute says it would mean less successful schools having a "considerable incentive to raise standards and reduce costs in order to attract students". Schools with particular problems would get "small" additional grants above the grant for each pupil. How the money was spent would be up to parents, with national minimum standards in cleaning, maintenance, catering and teaching performance.

The report's ideas have become popular among the "radical right" as a way of restoring what it calls "consumer sovereignty" in education. The institute argues that the "consumers" of education, parents, children and employers, have almost no say in the service.

Education Policy, and ASI Omega Report, ASI (Research) Ltd, Box 316, London SW1.

## Deafness in pupils 'unnoticed'

More than 500,000 pupils are suffering learning difficulties because their deafness goes unnoticed, the National Deaf Children's Society says.

The society says in a statement published today that local research studies over the past two years suggest that the national problem of children who are "deaf and not deaf" is more widespread than is yet recognized.

Health visitor screening of children before they start school or during their early years demonstrably failed to pick up deaf and partially deaf children. The society proposes that new medical testing equipment should be used on children to help to identify deafness before the child's educational development is damaged.

A new device called an impedance bridge audiometer, which tests for blockage in the middle ear, could be used at screening of preschool children

## Solicitors split on advertising charges

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Proposals to allow advertising by solicitors provided it does not bring the profession into disrepute are expected to receive a stormy reception when they are debated before Law Society leaders in London next week.

The proposals, by a Law Society working party, envisage the possibility of solicitors advertising their charges.

On balance the view of England and Wales's 48,000 solicitors, particularly younger ones, is thought to favour the proposals as a necessary move in the fight to counter competition from banks, buildings societies and non-solicitor conveyancers when government proposals to end the conveyancing monopoly become law.

But some of the profession's older members are still opposed to any form of advertising, even to large displays of a firm's name outside the office, on the ground, as one put it, that "the best advertisement is the personal recommendation of a satisfied client".

The proposals will be debated at a meeting of local Law Society presidents and secretaries, and council members on May 23. They then go to the Law Society Council in June.

Mr Robert King, chairman of the working party on advertising, said he was hopeful that the proposals would be adopted. "We believe we detect a sea change in the profession on this issue."

Another council member said that from visits to several local law societies he thought that solicitors were divided. "Some say we must allow advertising immediately. Others argue we must not move in this direction too quickly."

A third council member, Mr

William Heath, said: "My impression from the profession is that broad brush advertising will be accepted. But I do not know whether price advertising will go through."

Many of the 60 council members have not made up their minds and their decision is expected to be influenced by views expressed at the debate. One said: "The advertising issue is one in which the debate itself will be of great significance in deciding people's views."

Solicitors will also debate proposals by a Law Society working party that they should enter the property market.

The working party concludes that if the Law Society mounts campaigns in support of solicitors entering property selling, the profession "may have its best chance of avoiding a serious and irreversible loss of income" and also of opening up the possibility of organizing a full range of house-buying services.

Of various possible ventures the working party concludes the best might be solicitors setting up an estate agency conducted by a company limited by guarantee of which only solicitors were shareholders.

Such a company has been set up by solicitors in Glasgow and been "very successful" in competing with other estate agents and securing a share of the market for solicitors, it says.

But another working party comes out against the idea of solicitors building society and says it would pose "insuperable difficulties". More than 200 solicitors have pledged support for such a proposal and are intending to press ahead in spite of the working party's views.

## Doctors meet to review test-tube baby research

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Doctors who have pioneered the test-tube baby technique, enabling infertile women to give birth successfully to more than 2,500 babies worldwide, meet this week to report progress in their research since the first child resulted from fertilization of a human egg outside the body, on July 25, 1978.

The conference in Helsinki is essentially a medical research forum to review the technical options presented by the procedure - and particularly the storage of frozen embryos and embryo transfers involving donors.

The blockage or absence of the normal passageway for an egg to be transported from the ovary to the uterus - the cause of infertility - is estimated to occur in more than one million women in Britain, the United States, Australia and the European countries in which *in vitro* fertilization has become regarded as an established medical technique.

The technology is simple in theory, as is the medical motivation of removing a limitation on normal healthy life. However, the technology is complicated in practice and so are the ethics of motivation.

A team from the Centre for Reproductive Biology at Edinburgh University has raised one of the key issues of motivation in a letter to the latest issue of *The Lancet*. They raise the subject "What potential ovum donors think".

They say much of their research depends on eggs obtained from women requesting sterilization.

Recently, the Edinburgh team surveyed 55 patients referred for sterilization. One in four agreed to participate in research, eight said they might have but were uneasy about stopping oral contraception for two months, which the research demanded; and 15 did not wish to participate for reasons ranging from a sense of unease to strong moral objections.



Colin Evans

## Marie Payne: Lorry driver is remanded

A lorry driver, Mr Colin James Evans, aged 44, appeared in court at Barking, Essex, on Saturday charged with the murder of Marie Payne, aged four.

Mr Evans, of Russell Street, Reading, was remanded in custody until Wednesday. Police confirmed officially that the body found in Epping Forest on Friday was that of Marie Payne. She disappeared from her home at Dagenham Essex, 15 months ago.

The child's parents, Brenda and John Payne, were not in court. They had been advised by the police to keep away because it was felt the proceedings would be too upsetting for them.

Detectives were digging in the back garden of a house in Western Elms Avenue, Reading, on Saturday. The house is divided into bedsitters.

## Flavour main factor for tea drinkers

By John Young

More than 70 per cent of all the tea we drink is now made from tea-bags, according to a new survey by Taylor Nelson and Associates. The trend is likely to continue, as those who prefer the traditional loose-packed leaves are mainly older people.

But flavour is still seen as the most important factor, and price the least important, the survey shows.

Tea is regarded as more refreshing than coffee and a more suitable family drink, but coffee is more stimulating and convenient and more "socially acceptable" when entertaining. To the relief of the hard pressed dairy industry, most people still take milk in both tea and coffee, but sugar has become suspect on health grounds. The British Sugar Corporation, which is the monopoly buyer for all home produced beet, is launching a new £1,000,000 advertising campaign "to give sugar its proper recognition".

Unrefined brown sugars have gained a steadily increasing share of the declining market.

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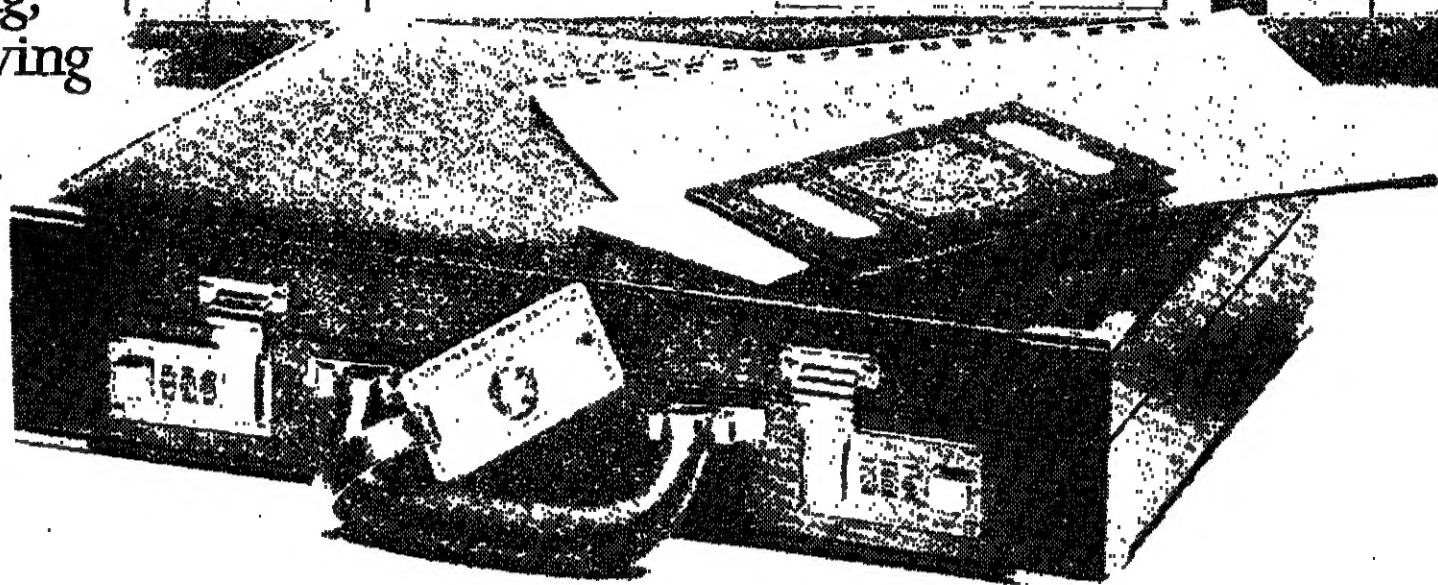
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	LANDED	1115
11:25	KM100	MALTA
	LANDED	1115
11:35	MA610	BUDAPEST
	EXPECTED	1130
11:35	IB422	SEVILLE
		BARCELONA
	LANDED	1120
11:55	HN407	ROTTERDAM
	LANDED	1145
11:55	FI450	REYKJAVIK
	EXPECTED	1150

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a day, 365 days a year. It monitors some 700,000 aircraft movements a year, covering around 57 million passengers. Prestel subscribers can access this valuable information for just 10p plus the cost of a local telephone call. And they are currently doing so 100,000 times a month.

The ingenious SkyGuide programme has won awards from the British Computer Society for applications, and from the European Direct Marketing Association for an outstanding contribution to the direct marketing of high-tech products.

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the choice of Packet SwitchStream for the vital link between the airports and Brighton.

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\*SkyGuide is the business name of American Express Flight Information Display Service.

**NEXT: EXPERTISE**

## ANY QUESTIONS?

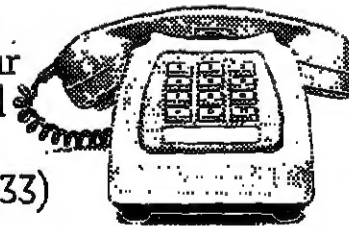
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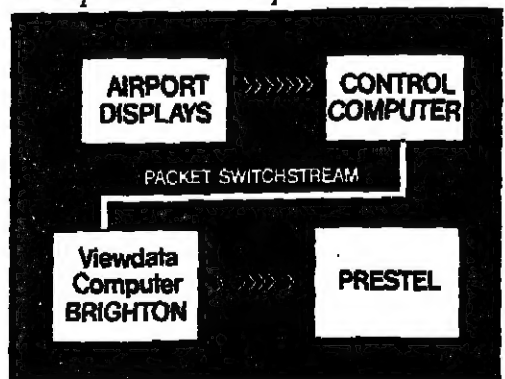
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SkyGuide block diagram: PSS data links provide the airport connections.



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## Bodies of bus hijackers exhumed by Israeli commission of inquiry

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

### Three killed by troops

The bodies of two of the four young Palestinians killed after they hijacked an Israeli civilian bus a month ago have been exhumed from graves in the occupied Gaza Strip, in preparation for official autopsies ordered by the Defence Ministry commission investigating the mysterious cause of their deaths.

The commission was appointed after mounting pressure from politicians and the press sparked by widespread speculation inside Israel that one or both men may have been killed by members of the security forces after being captured alive and led away after the bus was stormed. The two other hijackers were killed instantly in the fight and their bodies were carried off the vehicle.

The controversy caused by the disclosure of the existence of photographs showing two of the hijackers being led away from the crippled bus has been overtaken by the political storm resulting from the uncovering of a Jewish terrorist underground organization allegedly responsible for a four-year campaign against Arabs in the occupied West Bank.

Apart from news about the exhumations, very little has been released about the work of the two-man investigation commission, which is headed by reserve General Meir Zorea. It is a ministerial affair and the publication of all or any of its findings is solely dependent on the decision of Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, who appointed it.

Last week, Mr Arens was roundly criticized by *Haaretz*, Israel's leading independent newspaper, for the slow working of the commission, which was only set up two weeks after the incident it is investigating. Subsequently, he pledged in a speech that its report would be completed soon, but did not commit himself to a time.

It is known that senior Cabinet members are worried about the effect that a verdict against the Israeli security forces could have on the lives of the handful of Israeli prisoners now in the hands of fringe Palestinian groups.

This argument has been successfully used by the Government to prevent sections of the Israeli press from printing all the details which they gathered about the case. One newspaper, *Hadashot*, was suspended for four days for even revealing that the commission had been set up.

Although names were not given yesterday, it is reliably understood that the name of one of the two Arabs whose body has been exhumed is Majdi Abu Jumaa, aged 18, who was pictured by a photographer from *Hadashot* being led alive and well from the bus in the custody of two security men in civilian clothing.

The dramatic photograph, which is of good quality and shows apparent head wounds on the hijacker, has never been published in Israel itself, because of the ban imposed by the military censor, whose edicts have ruled out the publication of any details about the fate of the two hijackers.

Abu Jumaa, along with the other three hijackers, was buried under Army supervision on the night of Sunday, April 15, in the Gaza Strip. His body was identified by an uncle who claimed later that the head was covered in matted blood, although no such wounds were visible in the photograph taken as he left the bus.

While most doubt surrounds Abu Jumaa's fate, the Israeli magazine *Haolam Hazeh* (This World) has published photographs of another Arab, who has not yet been positively identified. It claimed he was the second hijacker who left the bus alive. In the blurred print, only published after the magazine's lawyers had threatened a High Court case against the censor, he could be seen being led away by three soldiers, including one holding a large pistol.

## Rockets hit Beirut as Cabinet splits

From Our Correspondent Beirut

Deadly mortar and artillery exchanges rocked Beirut over the weekend as Christian and Muslim ministers in the new Cabinet were reported to be divided over two sensitive issues: reorganization of the Lebanese Army and relations with Israel.

The fighting started late on Saturday afternoon along the Green Line that bisects the city, and escalated after dark to encompass widely spread residential neighbourhoods. Police said that 18 people were killed and at least 70 were wounded in areas as disparate as Ramlet el-Baida, a Muslim neighbourhood south-west of the Capital, and Dbaye, a Christian community more than 10 miles to the east.

Fighting resumed yesterday with heavy rocket barrages on the Christian El Rumaneh neighbourhood adjacent to the Green Line killing one man and injuring two women. Retaliatory fire kept some families in west Beirut in basements.

Lebanese militias often express their displeasure over political issues by shooting and the weekend battles were believed to have stemmed from disagreements at the first two Cabinet sessions last Thursday and Friday.

The Cabinet, under its Prime Minister, Mr Rashid Karami, did manage to agree on the broad outlines of its policy agenda, which must be submitted to Parliament for a vote of confidence.

The ministers differed, however, over reform of the army. Where senior posts have traditionally gone to Christians, the Christian Mr Karami, the President, and Mr Nabih Berri, the Shiite Muslim leader, favour a six-man command council - composed of representatives of the main religious factions in Lebanon - with a rotating chief.

The Christians argue for the status quo.

Mr Berri hinted during his weekend news conference that a Cabinet-ordered study of the Israeli "Hassan office" still operating east of Beirut would result in its closure. Such a move is opposed by the right-wing Christian "Lebanese forces" militia, which has received arms and training from Israel.

As the military and political disagreements erupted, hundreds of west Beirut children joined a march for peace on Saturday. Their parade, which stretched for six blocks along the Hamra district shopping street, drew applause from onlookers and showers of rice - a traditional Lebanese greeting - from people on balconies.



Wreckage of war: Rescue workers examining the shell of a car in west Beirut.

## Insurgents kill priest in Uganda ambush

Kampala (AP) - A French Roman Catholic priest, Father Joseph-Marie Maillard, died in a Kampala hospital at the weekend after being shot by unidentified gunmen north-west of the capital last Thursday.

Church officials said Father Maillard was delivering food to destitute parishioners near Mityana, about 40 miles outside Kampala, when gunmen shot at his car.

Areas north and west of Kampala have been insecure because of clashes between government troops and guerrillas fighting against President Milton Obote.

## Mitterrand low in poll ratings

Paris (AP) - President Mitterrand has received the lowest approval rating in the republic's 26-year history, according to a poll conducted for the weekly *Journal de Dimanche*. Only 30 per cent of those questioned were "satisfied" while 54 per cent said they were "dissatisfied" with his performance.

## Italians smash peace camps

Rome - Italian police have dismantled three peace camps on the outskirts of the US cruise missile base at Comiso in Sicily and arrested nine people, including a British woman (John Farle writes).

She was named as Jill Allison Howard, aged 21. The others were Gillian Smith aged 26 from New Zealand, Vikki Wise aged 20 from Australia, three West German and three Italian men.

## Civilian rule

Bissau (AFP) - Guinea-Bissau is set to return to civilian rule today with the military ruler for the past three and a half years, General Joao Bernardo Vieira, expected to become constitutional head of state.

## Duel challenge

Montevideo (AFP) - The former Uruguayan Vice-President, Señor Alberto Abdala, has challenged a journalist to a duel for writing an article about him which he considered offensive. Duelling is not illegal in Uruguay.

## Citroën sit-in

Aubay-Sous-Bois, France (AP) - Militant workers occupied the giant Citroën assembly plant for the third day yesterday in a protest over planned reductions in the workforce.

## Major shot

Guatemala City (AP) - An Army major was shot dead in an ambush while driving on a highway leading to the capital.

## £15m draw

New York (AP) - Record sales helped push the biggest lottery jackpot in North American history to \$22.1 (£15m) as last-minute players flocked up to buy tickets. No one has picked the winning six-number combination in the last three draws.

## Dog's delight

Nice (AP) - The pampered rich of the Côte d'Azur now have a gourmet restaurant for dogs, featuring three-course meals costing up to £10 and served on real china.

## King's wreath

Moscow (AP) - King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain visited the metro and laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier in the Soviet central Asian city of Tashkent yesterday.

## Tug of woe

Lenzburg, Switzerland (AP) - An attempt by 880 people to set a record for the tug-of-war ended in chaos and injury when the 30-yard, one-inch nylon rope broke, toppling 24 people.

## Olympic crisis: Emigrés claim success for campaign

## US attack on Soviet boycott

From Mohsin Ali Washington

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, has attacked the Soviet Union sharply for its withdrawal from the Los Angeles Olympics and its treatment of Andrei Sakharov, the dissident physicist.

"The Soviet decision to boycott the Los Angeles Olympics was completely unjustified. It surprised and clearly dismayed even their closest allies," Mr Shultz told a business council in Hot Springs, Virginia on Saturday.

Mr Shultz commented that the allegations on which the Russians ostensibly based their decision were "flimsy and false". He added that the United States had met all its obligations under the Olympic charter and had bent over backwards to meet the Russians' legitimate concerns.

Those included assurances that there would be no anti-Soviet demonstrations in the Olympic facilities and villages, and the granting of permission for charter flights by the Soviet airline, Aeroflot.

Mr Shultz said that the Russians were trying to "drag their allies into isolation with them" by forcing them to boycott the games.

He also criticized the Soviet decision to walk out of the nuclear arms control talks late last year.

After Mr Sakharov tried to help his wife to go West for medical treatment the Russians cut him off from the outside world, bringing false charges against his wife and even refusing to allow her to go to Moscow. His life was being trifled with and the whole world must be concerned, Mr Shultz said.

Mr Shultz said that President Reagan's visit to China last month proved that the United States could maintain cooperative relations with societies ideologically very different from itself.

● LOS ANGELES: China will attend this summer's Olympics, games officials announced (Reuters reports). They had previously refused to disclose which countries had formally agreed to take part, saying that it was inappropriate to do so in advance of a deadline for acceptance on June 2. Taiwan will also compete.

● VIENNA: Afghanistan has decided not to attend the games.

## Scaring off the Russian bear

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

While most of Los Angeles continues to mourn the Soviet decision - revenge for the US boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games - a desire to hurt the Soviets Coalition, an amalgam of ethnic, émigré and right-wing American anti-communist groups, was taking delighted credit for the Soviet pull-out.

"We were eyeball to eyeball with the Soviets, and the Russian bear not only blinked, it turned tail and ran," said Mr Valdis Pavlovskis, president of the Baltic-American Freedom League, a coalition member.

Mr David Balsiger, director of the coalition, agreed: "We are the moving force, no doubt, behind the Soviets' not coming."

They are convinced that the Russians made their decision for fear of mass defections from their Olympic team once they were exposed to freedom, California-style. The problem, as one leading American columnist put it, was "keeping them in Minsk after they've seen Malibu".

While others looked for more complex reasons for the Soviet decision - revenge for the US boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games - a desire to hurt the Soviets Coalition, an amalgam of ethnic, émigré and right-wing American anti-communist groups, was taking delighted credit for the Soviet pull-out.

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## Kaunda tries to save Namibia conference

Lusaka (Reuters) - President Kaunda of Zambia was locked in negotiations yesterday in an attempt to salvage an acrimonious all-party conference on Namibia (South West African) independence.

Conference sources said that President Kaunda and his co-chairman, Mr Willie van Niekerk, South Africa's Administrator-General for Namibia, hoped to find enough common ground between opposing delegations to justify a joint final communiqué.

The closed-door conference has brought together the black nationalist guerrilla movement Swapo (South West African People's Organization), a South African delegation led by Mr van Niekerk, and representatives of Namibian internal parties.

Talks were extended into a third unscheduled day with Swapo giving warning of the circumstances acquired a new meaning: "Our struggle is now vindicated."

It has been evident for some time that Swapo was not the old Centre Union. The strongly anti-Communist coalition pieced together by Mr Papandreu's own father in the early 1960s to dislodge the right wing which had firmly entrenched itself in power after the war.

Mr Papandreu himself told the congress that Swapo, in the absence of a socialist tradition in this country, had its roots in EAM the Communist-controlled wartime National Liberation Front. After the war, EAM was denied its rightful political role because the Communist uprising and the right wing oppression on that ensued left little room for ideological nuances. These frustrated patriots and their resentful

## Iran poll results annulled

By Habbib Teimourian

Iran's Council of Guardians, an assembly of senior theologians which supervises elections and vets Parliamentary Bills for adherence to Islamic rules, declared in Tehran yesterday that it had nullified the election results of 20 parliamentary constituencies obtained on April 15. This was the first round of elections to Iran's Islamic Majlis (Parliament). The final round will be held on Thursday, May 17.

Hojatolislam Emami Kashani, a spokesman for the Elections Supervisory Commission of the Council, told Tehran Radio's home service that the elections in those constituencies had taken place in an "unhealthy atmosphere" and that their winners would therefore be "unworthy" if allowed to enter the Majlis building as members of parliament.

BAHRAIN: A Kuwaiti tanker passing through the Gulf of Oman was hit by a missile fired from a warplane, the owners said.



Mr Nujoma: Swapo leader gives a warning

## Greece vetoes deployment of Nato missiles

From Our Correspondent Athens

Greece has vetoed a Nato plan to deploy Harpoon missiles in Turkish naval bases because it might upset the military balance between Greece and Turkey in the Aegean.

This was disclosed by Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, during the first party congress of the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek), which ended in Athens last night.

The Greek move came just as President Karamanlis of Greece and President Evren of Turkey exchanged messages of goodwill, expressing hopes for improved relations, on the occasion of the accreditation of Mr Nazmi Akimian, hitherto the Turkish Foreign Ministry's spokesman, as ambassador to Greece.

## Pasek declares its radical allegiance

From Mario Mediano Athens

Only two guests at the first congress of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek) which closed in Athens last night, drew ovations that equalled the party's charismatic leader and Prime Minister. They were General Markos, the defeated Communist insurgent in the Greek civil war, and Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader.

Each reflected an important facet of Pasek's emerging identity. If the congress, long overdue for a ten-year-old party, served any purpose other than to confirm Pasek as a one-man party, this was to allow its true identity to come to the surface. After 30 months in power the Greek Socialists feel confident enough to call a spade a spade.

It was not simply a case of clenched fists and radical jargon. The 2,400 party "comrades" who packed the amphitheatre under the Athens Olympic stadium, stood up and cheered when it was announced that General Markos was present. Then they burst into a Pasek slogan which in the circumstances acquired a new meaning: "Our struggle is now vindicated."

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progeny, radicalized by prolonged ostracism from the political scene, as well as by political persecution, have now come to power and they exercise it with a vengeance.

These are the Pasek stalwarts who took up key posts in the party, the Government and the state and are busy uprooting the last vestiges of right wing control in the administration, to protect themselves against subversion. They are doctoring post war Greek history with a zeal.

Pasek's efforts to eliminate the surviving vestiges of wartime antagonism by extending due recognition to EAM's resistance record, arranging pensions for its fighters and permitting the mass repatriation of the remaining 30,000 political refugees in Eastern Europe, won widespread approval in Greece.

But the Pasek congress has now taken the identification process one step further. The applause reserved for General Markos, now a towering 78, like the triumphant welcome he is given in the pro-Government press last year when he returned from Russia after 35 years of exile, implied regret that the Communist under his leadership had not won the civil war.

Constantine Menonidis, chief spokesman for the opposition Conservatives, drew attention to this new face of Pasek which, he said, "now emerges as a renegade movement out to punish the democratic parties for having won the civil war."

To this generation of Greeks, of course, anti-Americanism is daily bread and butter. They are firmly convinced that had it not been for the Truman doctrine which poured arms and money into Greece between 1946-49, they might still have won.

Pasek's platform is consistent with these attitudes. But, after two and a half years in power, the Papandreu administration has shown enough pragmatism not to rock the boat at least over issues directly relevant to the country's military and economic security.

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## Greece scores diplomatic victory at UN over Cyprus

From Zoriana Pysurwsky, New York

The UN Security Council has adopted its most strongly worded resolution to date on efforts by the Turkish Cypriot community to consolidate its rule in the self-proclaimed state in the north of the island. It also spared little censure against Turkey as the occupying power.



Mr Denktas: Warning over imprudent moves.

After more than a week of heated debate on the subject, the council gave the Greek side a strong diplomatic victory and condemned "separatist actions" in Cyprus, including the exchange of ambassadors.

But, despite the clear message sent by the Council that further measures to partition Cyprus will not be tolerated, members of the council see a negotiated settlement between the two sides as moving quickly and inevitably out of reach.

Mr. Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, warned the council that his imprudent moves could kill the mediation efforts of Senior Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, who has once again been given the task of picking up the pieces. The consensus is that the Turkish side will continue to consolidate its unilateral independence.

Ankara: Turkey said yesterday that the resolution ran against hopes that Cyprus's problems could be solved by recognizing the legal rights of both its communities (Reuters reports).

Leading article, page 15



Dwindling supplies: Ethiopian refugees in Sudan face a bleak future.

## Seven million Ethiopians could starve

Nairobi (AP) — A photographer just back from drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia reported yesterday that between five and seven million Ethiopians could starve to death in the next two months.

The Nairobi-based photographer, Mohamed Amin, wrote in a front-page story in Nairobi's *Sunday Nation*: "The worst drought in Ethiopia's history

has now spread into its once fertile highlands, with more than a fifth of its 31 million people victims."

Amin, who spent 12 days traveling by DC3 aircraft, helicopter and four-wheel-drive vehicles in Ethiopia and neighbouring Djibouti, called the Ethiopian drought "one of Africa's greatest tragedies in the making."

He quoted Mr Dawit Giorgis, head of Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation organization as saying: "We need 250,000 tons of grain now". That would provide the minimum daily grain ration the victims need to stay alive.

"Altogether, we need 900,000 tons of grain in the next few months if we are to save these poor people."

## New attitude to food production

## Why the rising price of rice has sown the seeds of capitalism

In the first of three articles on Vietnam, David Watts, South-East Asia Correspondent, describes how the need to grow more rice has made ideological purity a less immediate concern.



Professor Tran Phung smiles mischievously as he admits that good old-fashioned capitalism is playing an important role in the rehabilitation of Vietnamese agriculture.

Contract incentive schemes have improved rice production by about 50 per cent since they were introduced and there are tentative efforts to offer the same extra rewards on the industrial side of the economy.

Professor Phung, who is vice-chairman of the council of ministers in charge of economic policy, believes it is perfectly acceptable to use such individualistic methods to encourage socialist production: "In peace time we should have material incentives and expand piece-work wages to pay people according to production. Any effort above the quota gets better pay. It's a policy every country applies in peace time. The policy during war time was abnormal."

Thirty years of war left Vietnamese agriculture exhausted or destroyed with half a million hectares uncultivated and with a formerly extensive rice exporter reduced to being a chronically dependent importer from the United States. Since 1975 the need to get basic food production up to self-suf-

ficiency levels has persuaded those with a more pragmatic outlook to try methods which are anathema to large sections of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

By the end of last year the pragmatists had the upper hand, at least for the moment, with rice production at 17 million tons - sufficient to feed the country at the low levels of nutrition to which Vietnam has become accustomed.

The victory had been at a price of division within the party. And criticism that the incentives, which allow peasants and cooperatives to retain excess production for their own use or resale, have contributed to corruption.

This spring the paddy fields of the Red River delta are a vivid green giving hopes of a good spring crop. But appearances are misleading: an unusually severe winter had played havoc with the last of the 1983 crop and there is already a shortage of rice on the free market on which so many Vietnamese rely. The price of rice is sky-rocketing with the better varieties costing as much as 60 dong a kilogramme. The price had previously been running at about 25 dong a kilo. In the

north government employees get varying monthly rice allowances at half a dong a kilo depending on their status.

To make up shortages in the north, however, is problematic. Rice production in the northern half of the country is still under-developed but to bring rice from the country's rice bowl in the Mekong delta is vastly expensive and there is a lack of transport infrastructure. One senior party cadre said one kilo of rice produced in the north was better than 20 imported from the south.

So despite markets full of fresh tomatoes and bananas in Hanoi, inflation is rampant and the prospect is that Vietnam will have to import some 200,000 tons of rice during the year.

But the professor is adamant that these capitalist practices pose no danger to socialism: "Categorically no," he says with a very smile. "Officially no capitalists remain. We require managers of big factories to have joint enterprises with the state but we may say that there are small capitalists. We allow them to have up to 15 workers because we believe they are useful to the economy. They are useful in the sense that they can manufacture a variety of products that the state factories can't."

"You will not get one per cent of Vietnamese who prefer capitalism," the professor insists.

Tomorrow: Military strength

## Mothers allowed to visit Turkish jails

From Rasit Gurdiel, Ankara

A Mother's Day meeting yesterday between 920 political prisoners in Ankara and their mothers or children is seen here as indicating an improvement in the harsh conditions which led to a 45-day hunger strike earlier this year.

Prisoners in the Mamak military jail were allowed 20 minutes to meet their families, without iron bars or wire netting, sitting across tables in the prison yard.

Officials said that the same opportunity was granted to the inmates of military jails in Istanbul. But some reports said that hundreds of relatives of 226 prisoners on a hunger strike since April 11 in the Metris and Sigmalar military jails in Istanbul had threatened to stage a hunger strike in protest at the refusal of their requests to visit the hunger strikers.

Turkish and foreign journalists were allowed to cover the Mamak prison visit.

A statement released by the

Government late last Friday, in reply to a recent report by Amnesty International, said that "improvements were being carried out in military and civilian jails throughout the country in line with the recommendations of a government-appointed commission".

The admission of the need for improvements in prison conditions was accompanied by vitriolic attacks on the "unfounded claims of widespread torture" which were attributed to the propaganda of Turkish dissidents abroad.

The statement noted that many of the torture victims listed in the Amnesty report had either never complained of torture or maltreatment of the Turkish authorities, or a medical examination had yielded "no traces of torture".

It admitted, however, "some isolated cases of torture". Those responsible had been punished, it said.

## European Notebook

## UK seeks to polish its tarnished image



Taking advantage of the lull in the EEC budget negotiations, Britain has been trying to polish up its European image. Despite persistent cries of injured innocence, Britain has never been able to convince public opinion in the rest of Europe that it has a real European commitment.

Belgian newspapers last week were not slow to draw a parallel between the behaviour of Spurs wrecking Brussels and British governments wrecking the Community.

There can be no doubt that this preconception makes it all the more difficult for Mrs Thatcher to negotiate with her naturally abrasive style. Britain is not so much plaintiff in the case as a defendant in the dock.

This last week saw Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Minister, launching another well-prepared campaign to slash the exorbitant price of European air fares. It is a popular campaign with the European public, even if it is anathema to many member states who are frightened to open their national flag carriers to price competition.

Mr Ridley tried to make out it was just coincidence that British Airways and KLM between them had agreed to slash London-Amsterdam return fares to just £49, even though he must have been aware of the negotiations which made it all possible.

But with the prospect of a price war in the air, the Transport Council did agree (at last) to set up a working group to study liberalizing air services and it may even report back by the end of the year. That is further than Britain itself was able to go when it was last in the EEC council chair, even though it had made the question one of its urgent priorities.

Transport generally is a subject where Britain is very keen to show how European it is. It is not very expensive to the budget and supporting measures like cheaper fares and easier border crossings are popular with the public.

It is also very European. The Treaty of Rome actually has one more article about a common transport policy than it has about a common agricultural policy. Add to that

the articles about freeing services, opening up the internal market and freeing the movement of services and Britain can try to argue it is in the vanguard of true Europeans.

This week will see the wraps coming off another popular project, where Britain wants to be seen leading the way. The Commission is due to put forward its proposals for introducing lead-free petrol by mid-week and whatever the technical arguments remaining, Britain means to give full and urgent support to efforts to make EEC cars all run on lead-free petrol by the end of the century.

This is an area where France and Italy are known to be dragging their feet.



Mr Ridley: Lashed fares campaign.

And if Britain is not being slow to draw attention to the way other countries hold up other European projects (West Germany refusing to liberalize insurance services is a favourite British example) it is also doing its best to point out that it is one of the more law-abiding of all member states.

This is an argument made the easier by the decision not to withhold contributions to the EEC budget in retaliation for failure to pay Britain its rebate according to the timetable Mrs Thatcher had set.

It is also made easier by recent Commission figures (being proudly circulated by British officials in Brussels) which show that Britain has been hauled before the European Court for offending the treaties only ten times since 1978. This compares with 34 times by France, 69 times by Italy and 13 times by West Germany over the same period.

Ian Murray

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## Curfew as Hindu mobs protest at killing of editor by Sikh gunmen

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Sikh extremists shot and killed a newspaper editor in Jullundur in the troubled state of Punjab at the weekend. Two years ago they shot his father.

Mr Ramesh Chander, aged 55, who took over the reins of the Hind Samachar newspaper group after the death of his father, died when his car was ambushed by three assassins in the centre of the town in broad daylight.

The Hindu population of Jullundur reacted immediately. Bazaars closed the mobs refused to let the police near to take Mr Chander's body away. A curfew was declared in the town until this morning.

Mr Chander was the third editor killed in Punjab this year. Mr Sukhraj Singh, editor of an extreme left-wing newspaper was shot by two Sikhs who called at his home in Gurdaspur in April. Mr Sumit Singh, editor of one of the oldest Punjabi monthlies, *Prer-Lari*, was shot and killed two months before at his home near Amritsar.

Journalists have been targets of the Sikh gunmen ever since Mr Chander's father, Mr Lala Jagat Narain, was murdered as he was driving home.

Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, the fundamentalist leader of the Sikh militants, was accused of complicity in Mr Narain's murder and arrested. He was released only after riots in which 21 people died, and

after the intervention of the central Government.

Sant Bhindranwale then took refuge in the Golden Temple of Amritsar and has not left it since.

Mr Narain's other son, Mr Vijay Chandra told me recently: "Since my father was killed we have all had police bodyguards. The police are now telling us we should have two gunmen each."

His brother had two gunmen in his car when he died. The bodyguards given to people who have appeared on a so-called hit list prepared by Sant Bhindranwale's followers have not been able to prevent several quite public murders.

The head of the Delhi Sikh temple committee was assassinated in a busy street in the capital a few weeks ago although a bodyguard was in his car, and the former deputy police chief of Amritsar had two bodyguards killed by his attackers before he and his family were wiped out.

Even Mr Chander's son, Mr Ashwini Kumar, who is Delhi editor of one of the Samachar group newspapers, and who also appears on the hit list, found himself suddenly without protection recently when angry trade unionists pursuing an industrial dispute in his office snatched his bodyguard's sten gun. He got it back only after much difficulty.

Reporters covering the Sikh

disturbances have been man-handled and threatened.

A reporter for one Hindu newspaper was stabbed in the thigh as he was leaving the Golden Temple in Amritsar recently.

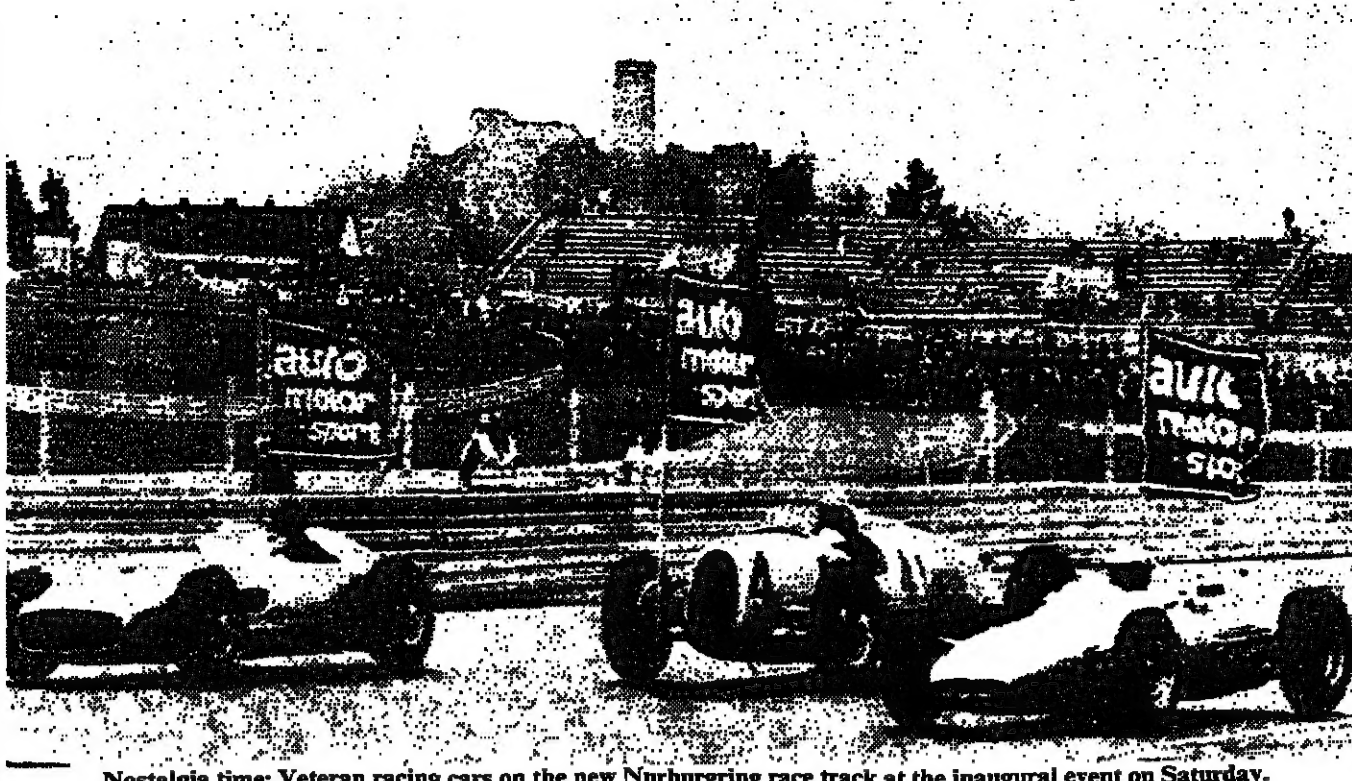
Mr Chander Mohan, editor of *Vir Pratap*, also based in Jullundur said: "The bravest press in the country happens to be based in Punjab. Our colleagues in other parts of the country face threats from the Government or the police, but we in Punjab are under pressure from people who are beyond reason or logic. They deny our stories by sending parcel bombs."

*Vir Pratap* received two explosive parcels last year. The two clerks who opened them were killed.

● Bush arrives: Mr George Bush, United States Vice-President flew into Delhi to an unenthusiastic welcome.

He referred to discussions including differences between the United States and India but added that the values, traditions and interests which the two countries held in common "far outweigh any difference we might have".

The Indians are upset with American policies especially because of what they see as the rearming of Pakistan with modern weapons and the favoured treatment being given to China.



Nostalgia time: Veteran racing cars on the new Nurburgring race track at the inaugural event on Saturday.

## Past and future meet at Nurburgring

From John Blunsden, Altenahr, West Germany

Ayrton Senna, the young Brazilian driver, won the first race to be held at the new Nurburgring at the weekend, snatching victory from a strong field which included former world champions Sir Jack Brabham, Phil Hill, John Surtees, Denis Hulme, Nikki Lauda, James Hunt, Jody Scheckter, Alan Jones and Keke Rosberg.

Senna took the first place from Lauda by a margin of 1.38 seconds. Scheckter recorded the fastest lap on the damp track at just under 76 miles.

Senna, who took command of the

12-lap pace from the start, was one of 20 drivers competing in identical Mercedes-Benz 190E 2.3-16 saloons, which have been developed in collaboration with Cosworth Engineering of Northampton. These had just been put into production in West Germany.

Typical Eifel weather - drizzle, fanned by a biting cold wind - failed to dampen the impact which the new circuit (which is located alongside the old) has made on West German motorsport enthusiasts. Over 50,000 people helped to clog the roads surrounding the circuit.

They witnessed a day-long pro-

gramme of events which in the main emphasized the past, but on a circuit which emphatically represents the future with its wide open spaces, ample run-off areas and abundant high-mounted grandstands.

Saturday was a day of deep nostalgia, with many great names from the past including Manfred von Brauchitsch and René Dreyfus (both turned 80), Herman Lang, Piero Taruffi, Juan Manuel Fangio and Karl Kling, all in their 70s, being brought together with relative youngsters like Stirling Moss, aged 54, to take part in parade of racing machinery.

## Pakistan martial law 'less severe'

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Martial law, which has been in force in Pakistan for the past seven years, has resulted in thousands of arbitrary arrests, floggings and torture but there are new signs that the repression may be easing off slightly, according to the International Federation of Human Rights.

A Federation team of inquiry, comprising two French lawyers and an English barrister, Miss Joanna Dodson, has just returned from an eight-day fact-finding visit to Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Islamabad, where they managed to speak to some 60 lawyers, journalists, politicians and former political prisoners.

"People spoke to us of two to three thousand political prisoners still being held, mostly in the most appalling conditions, including many lawyers who have spoken out against martial law, but we were not able to verify that figure," Maître Etienne Jaudel, one of the French lawyers, said in Paris yesterday.

"Things got particularly bad after the bloody riots last summer. It is the extraordinarily arbitrary nature of the arrests that is the worst. People may be arrested anywhere, at any time, and sentenced to up to three years imprisonment by summary military tribunals without ever knowing the charges against them and with no right to any legal representation. We met people who had been arrested and sentenced 10 times in succession.

"The detention centre in the Mogul fort in Lahore has the worst reputation for the torture of political prisoners. The torture is mostly not as bad as I have witnessed in other countries, but prisoners may be deprived of sleep for nights on end, hung from the ceiling by their feet and subjected to the most savage flogging. One man we met still had scars six years later."

"Former prisoners told us they were kept fettered by their hands, feet and waist in cramped cells, some no bigger than the infamous 1.5 metre by two metre 'tiger cages' in Vietnam. They were allowed out for only half an hour a day. The wounds caused by the chains of ten became infected. Hygienic amenities were nonexistent."

Miss Dodson and Maître Jaudel said that they had discovered some positive things on their trip; however, flogging of political prisoners appeared to have ceased three to four months ago, though it continued for common criminals, and a considerable number of political prisoners had been released over the past few weeks. No official explanation had been given.



President Zia: Regime under fire

## Scientists make ass of old skull

From Harry Debellus, Madrid

An international symposium on the earliest man-like creature thought to have inhabited the Eurasian land mass was called off at the last minute because some scientists are trying to make an ass out of "Orce man", according to reports published here yesterday.

The three-day symposium, originally scheduled to begin in Granada on May 28, under the sponsorship of the regional government of Andalusia, was to have centred on discoveries last year at a site in Orce, near Granada, where an ancient skull fragment was found. It was originally identified as coming from a hominid creature which dwelt there about 1.3 million years ago. That was earlier than any previous find in Europe or Asia.

The creature was dubbed "Orce man". However, after a long process of removing calcium deposits from the interior surface, which ended only last month, careful study revealed a "crest" or ridge which raised doubts in some experts' minds about the type of animal to which it belonged. Some scientist argued that such a crest was more characteristic of the jackass or its ancestors than of man.

The director of the archaeological team which made the discovery and is continuing to excavate at the site, Señor Josep Gilbert of the Institute of Paleontology at Sabadell in eastern Spain, said tests and studies of the find are continuing, and he maintained that, despite the doubts cast by some of his colleagues, the probability that the creature was a hominid is still 25-1.

## Tamil prisoners call for release of US couple

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

A search was being conducted yesterday by the Army, Navy, Air Force and police in the northern province and 13 islands for the American couple, Mr Stanley Bryson Allen and his wife, Mary Elizabeth, who were kidnapped by Tamil rebels. The rebels have threatened to kill them by noon today if their demands for the release of 20 prisoners and 50 million rupees in gold (£1.4m) are not met through the Tamil Nadu Government in Madras.

The State-owned Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation broadcast appeals yesterday by a Roman Catholic priest, Father Aparanam Singarayar, and a university teacher, Mrs Nirmala Nithyanantha, who are two of the 20 prisoners. They asked the rebels who are holding the American couple to release them immediately and not to harm them.

Father Singarayar also said in his appeal that the kidnapping would only harm the cause for which it was intended.

● **Tamil's statement:** In Madras the press office of a Tamil secessionist group said that Mr Allen and his wife were "well treated just now." Their whereabouts were not known (AP Reports).

## Immigration uproar

From Tony Dubouin, Melbourne

The bipartisan approach to Australia's immigration policy, which has lasted virtually since large-scale immigration started soon after the Second World War, is in tatters after a week of charge and counter-charge in the federal Parliament.

Asian immigration is now almost certain to be a key issue in the next federal elections, likely to be called ahead of schedule at the end of this year or early next.

The furore hit the headlines last Tuesday when Mr Andrew Peacock, leader of the Oppo-

sition, called for a balance between the number of Asians and European and British people coming to Australia. He said there would be no bipartisan approach to the issue until that balance was achieved. His call indicated a change in direction by the Opposition.

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, responded by calling for rationality and tolerance. However, he did little to calm the waters by saying that the intake of family-reunion immigrants from Asia would increase as a "statistical inevitability".

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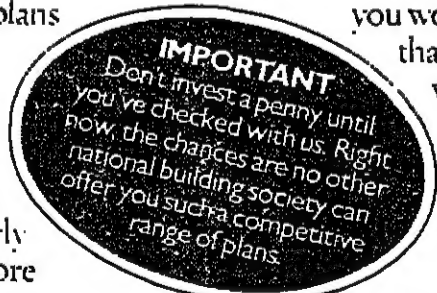
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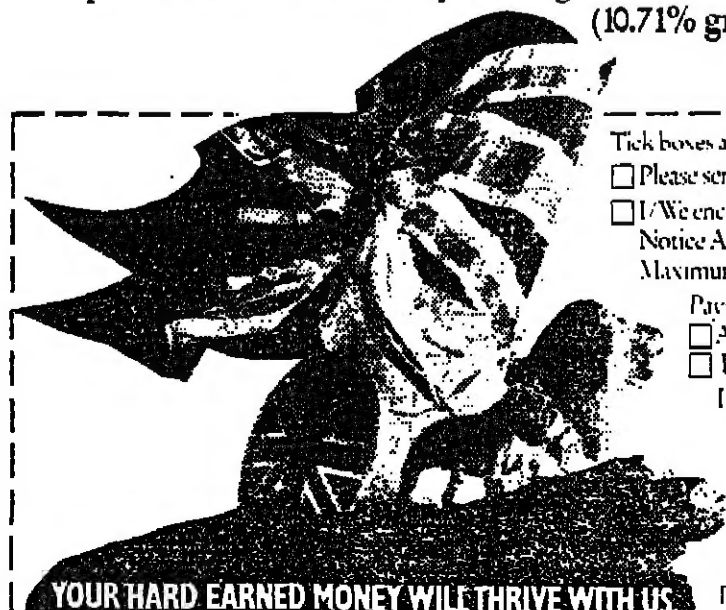
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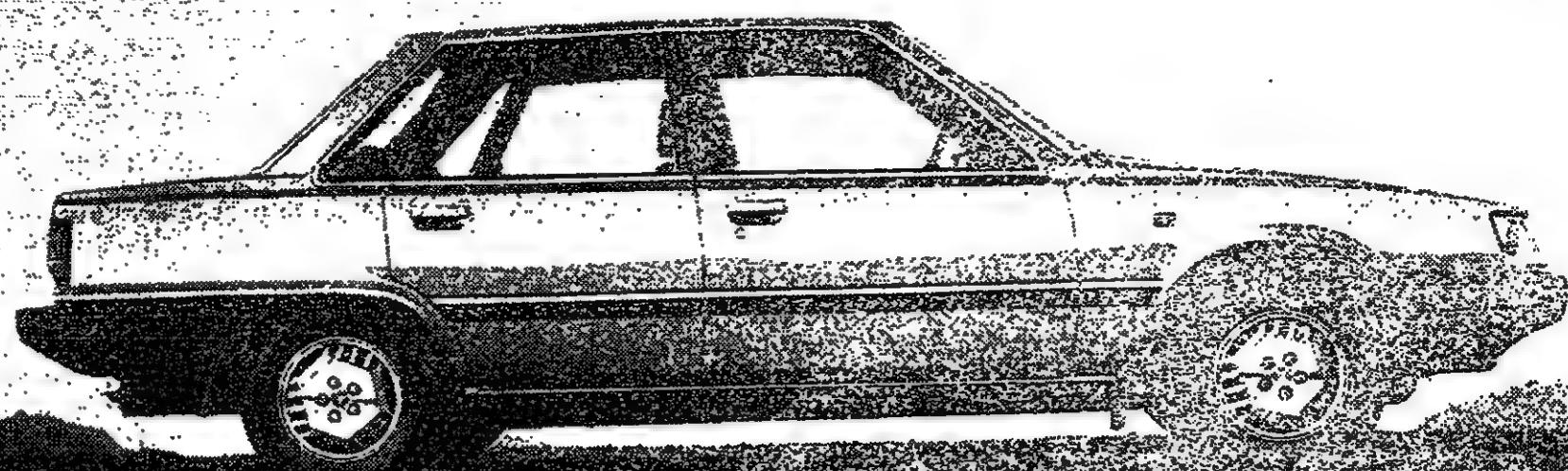
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## SPECTRUM

Eight years in the making, the fourth film of the story of Captain William Bligh and the mutiny that Fletcher Christian led against him is the first to tell it as it was 200 years ago - and the film *Bounty* of today sailed almost as hazardous a sea of troubles

# Bounty hunters

There can be few visitors to the small and exposed cemetery of St Mary's, Lambeth, who will not have heard of the man described as having "bravely fought the battles of his country and died beloved, respected and lamented on the 7th Day of December 1817, aged 64." Despite his undisputed skills as a navigator, his courage and dedication to duty, Captain Bligh is established in the public's imagination as a tyrant who flogged his men with sadistic relish until, on April 28, 1789, they were moved to mutiny against him. The instigator of the mutiny, Fletcher Christian, was a personal friend of Bligh's, the recipient of his personal favours and then personal abuse. Christian has gone down in history as a romantic hero.

The *Bounty* is the stuff of fiction and only weeks after Bligh's return to England, following his phenomenal 4,000-mile open-boat voyage, a play called *The Pirates* was staged in London.

This year sees the release of the fourth cinema film, called simply *The Bounty*. It has taken eight years to reach the screen and is the first film to be based on authentic documentation as well as Richard Hough's 1972 book *Captain Bligh and Mr Christian*. The peculiar and dramatic history of this film offers a remarkable portrait of how Hollywood has changed in recent years.

After the failure of *Ryan's Daughter*, which appeared in 1970, director David Lean was looking for his next story. A compulsive traveller who has few possessions and lives in luxurious hotels, Lean arrived in French Polynesia with the idea of making a screen biography of Captain Cook. Perhaps because of the vastness of the undertaking (even for Lean) and perhaps because Cook's personality was disappointingly straightforward, Lean abandoned him for Bligh and the *Bounty*. Lean also fell passionately in love with the sapphire lagoons and the lush volcanic spires of Polynesia in

much the same way that he became enthralled by the Jordanian desert whilst filming *Lawrence of Arabia*.

Lean's films are examinations of the British character under stress. He places his characters in alien, inhospitable, exotic landscapes which offer a source of escape and self-discovery.

Lean installed himself in an overgrown bungalow 100 miles from Tahiti, and early in 1977 sent his friend and agent Phil Kellogg to start the film rolling. At the time, the head of production at Warner Bros was John Calley, who told me, "Warners wanted to make a film with David Lean because of our respect for him and because we felt he had kept the industry alive."

Lean assembled his group of collaborators including script man Robert Bolt. Within weeks of Warner Bros agreeing to back a \$17m film, the project had grown into two films and involved the construction of a ship. The backers were nervous of the possible costs involved. "It was heartbreaking to see the project slipping away from us," says Calley. "If you pass by the chance to make a film with David Lean you have to look at yourself very critically. But John Bolt, the production designer had left the picture and we were faced with horror stories. We decided to make only one picture and review the possibility of a second film once the first picture had opened. But David was determined to make two films and then we heard that they had found someone prepared to back them." And that was the Dino De Laurentiis Corporation.

Lean and Bolt's plans were unusually detailed and ambitious, nothing less than an evocation of British manners and society in the late eighteenth century. By April 1978 a researcher hired from the Victoria and Albert Museum was back in London exchanging hundreds of telegrams with Bora Bora. An endless series of questions would arrive: What did the Dutch settlement at



DAVID LEAN

'Early sea explorers were like today's astronauts'

Coupons look like? How large were the ship's biscuits? What sort of ornaments would Lord Hood (who presided over Bligh's court martial) decorate his quarters with? How were English stage plays produced and what would the audience have worn? The film was to include the stage play *The Pirates* and one draft of the script began in outer space in order to demonstrate how the early sea explorers were the eighteenth century equivalents of astronauts.

At the very start of his involvement, De Laurentiis approved the construction of

## Lean, the poet and imagist was alone

the *Bounty*. It followed the plans still held in the Maritime Museum at Greenwich. The hull was ordered from Whangarei Engineering in New Zealand while sails and rigging were ordered from Spencer Theis Wharf on the Isle of Wight. The ship would cost \$2m and below decks would be fitted out with all the latest electronic equipment.

Understandably, De Laurentiis was becoming impatient. Almost a year had passed and the ship was not yet completed and Bolt had yet to complete the script. By now De Laurentiis had replaced Phil Kellogg with Bernard Williams, a young British executive who had been

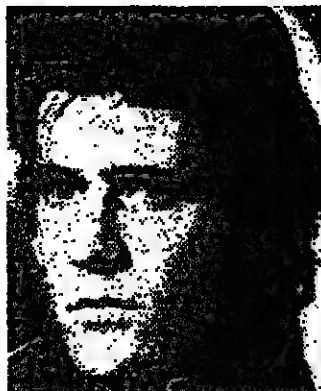
associate producer on Stanley Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange* and *Barry Lyndon*. Williams, therefore, had had experience with perfectionists.

April 1979 en route to Tahiti following a visit to France, Robert Bolt suffered a severe heart attack. He had open-heart surgery and two days later he suffered a massive stroke. "This is when it all went wrong between them. I think that David wanted an open cheque. He wanted to spend about 70 or 80 million dollars on the two films. I think."

Bernard Williams recalls a poignant meeting with Lean. "I told David that we were living in a different age. He asked me what I meant. I said that Paramount had just spent \$6m on a film called *Saturday Night Fever* and it looked like earning \$100m. I said that the age of the big movie was over."

Lean, the "poet and imagist" as Robert Bolt once called him, now found himself alone. He had part of a screenplay which everyone who read it thought was brilliant. But the writer was desperately ill and possibly unable to work again. De Laurentiis and Paramount had withdrawn their support. He made a last ditch appeal for help to producer Sam Spiegel, with whom he had worked on two films. Spiegel made a reluctant Lean agree to find a writer who could condense the two scripts into one and, at the same time, complete Bolt's work.

Back in London Lean ap-



MEL GIBSON: Hollywood's hottest property, but far from first choice to play the new Fletcher Christian



LAURENCE OLIVIER: hired for just one week's work in the closing stages of the saga of HMS Bounty



ANTHONY HOPKINS: pledged himself to play Captain Bligh in Lean's ill-starred and abandoned Bounty



EDWARD FOX: a small part for a big name - a brief appearance as an officer at Bligh's court martial



ROBERT BOLT

'I told David that we were living in a different age'

number of reported inquiries, the *Bounty* remained the property of De Laurentiis.

Almost a year passed until, in the spring of 1982, Bernard Williams was invited to become vice-president of the Dino De Laurentiis Corporation. He asked De Laurentiis if he could revive the *Bounty* project instead.

A TV mini-series was planned and then abandoned. Williams arranged financial backing from Orion Pictures, a "mini-major" founded in 1978 by disenchanted executives from United Artists. Orion bought the project for American distribution and with this guarantee the film's future at last seemed secure. Williams frantically sought a new director. The film was scheduled to start shooting in three months. At least two directors Hugh Hudson (*Chariots of Fire*) and Michael Cimino (*Heaven's Gate*) turned them down.

There then occurred the most extraordinary coincidence. In 1977 Roger Donaldson had directed *Sleeping Dogs* in New Zealand. Donaldson told me, "Suddenly I got a call from David Lean who said he was in New Zealand for a film about the *Bounty* and that he wanted to see my film."

Donaldson went on to direct a fine domestic drama called *Smash Palace* which De Laurentiis saw in America. De Laurentiis attaches great importance to viewing the work of new directors and he was impressed by Donaldson's talent. Donaldson then found himself in Hollywood discussing a

sequel to *Conan the Barbarian* which De Laurentiis had produced. "Dino is a man who makes his own decisions and makes them instantly," Donaldson told me. "I was very impressed by him and during our meeting I asked casually what was happening with the *Bounty*."

At 3am the next morning I got a call from Dino. He said he had an emergency and would go to see him. "Conan can't be done by someone else," he told me, "you will make the *Bounty* for me," recalled Donaldson.

Once Donaldson was signed and in England working with the long-suffering Robert Bolt, Williams had to replace Christopher Reeve who had turned down only six weeks before shooting started. There was no shortage of candidates - Jeremy Irons, Anthony Andrews, the rock star Sting, all were considered and rejected. Then Williams discovered that a film being made at MGM had been delayed and that its Australian star Mel Gibson might be available. Gibson, touted as the hottest actor in Hollywood, agreed.

Laurence Olivier and Edward Fox were engaged for a week's work as officers at Bligh's court martial and then, suddenly, Williams had his film together. On April 18, 1983 the first scene was shot. The film's title appropriately enough, was *The Saga of HMS Bounty*.

Adrian Turner



The 1778 version of HMS Bounty: built at a cost of over \$2m and packed with below-deck electronics. Seized by the builder when payments were not met - a writ nailed to the mast.

## Staggering, that's the only word for it

moreover... Miles Kingston

The race they call the greatest in the world, the London Marathon, took place yesterday as usual - and what a race it was. Right from the opening moment, when all the runners personally assured Ken Livingstone they were against apartheid, to the final solemn ceremony when the flame over the Tomb of the Unknown Racepayer was extinguished (and a small gas bill slipped into the tomb), it was an unbeatable unforgettable day! writes our team of 34 hand-picked reporters, cameramen, and exclamation-mark inserters!

The statistics alone are staggering. More than three million people entered the race, going up 70 one-way streets the wrong way and crossing the Thames 12 times. They consumed enough water to cover the Thames Barrier. 46 million glucose pills, 73 million Mars Bars and four packets of anabolic steroid-flavoured crisps. The Mars Bar wrappers alone would have stretched six inches deep from Greenwich to Buckingham Palace - in fact, they did!

In medical terms the runners generated 70,000 litres of sweat, which by evaporating formed a small cloud over London; this concentrated collection of human waste floated eastward from England over to Norway where it fell as acid rain and killed a small plantation of spruces. Truly an international day of sport!

Most amazing of all, only 36 arrests were made during the race itself, a new record. Inspector Thacker of the Yard

said afterwards that most of the offences were minor, usually caused by runners mugging each other in order to overtake.

"We had two or three hundred lads running in plain clothes with sun-glasses, rockers' leather gear, stuff like that. I think their presence definitely helped to take the heat off. The only serious case we had was of one runner arrested for carrying drugs."

Steroids? "Cocaine, actually. It would have been worth about \$5m on the street, which is where he was, of course, so we nabbed him. But all in all the runners behaved beautifully. There was no picketing, as we had taken the precaution of stopping any entrant from Yorkshire and turning them back before they got to London."

The race itself produced the usual crop of amazing stories, none more so than that of Steve Dipper, an unemployed youth from Tring, who received three offers of a job while he was running.

"I had this tray of ice creams which I was carrying with me as I ran, so as to get some pocket money, know what I mean? And three blokes offered me jobs in their restaurants, seeing as how I was so enterprising. I am now running a small chain of take-away kebab houses in the Midlands, and this is only the day after the race. Can't be bad."

Daphne Pilger from Stockwell went one better. She got engaged to be married at the ten mile mark.

"I'd been running with this very nice fellow from Kilburn whom I'd never met before, but we had all sorts of things in common - we both liked Duran Duran, we both bought sombreros at Malaga Airport. Anyway, he suddenly asked me to marry him and I thought, why not? Trouble was, he left me at the 15-mile mark for a blonde with a big collection of Culture Club records and I never saw him again, but I don't regret anything. It was marvellous while it lasted."

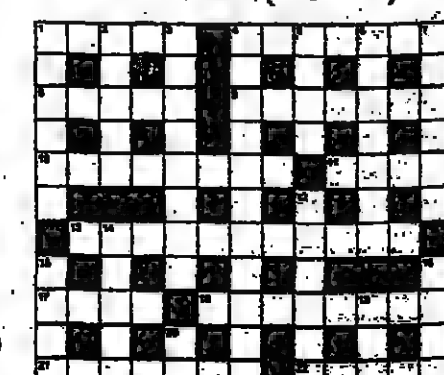
Most heart-warming of all, Simon Roneo actually met his mother during the race, whom he had not seen for 29 years.

"She had run off when I was three, and here she was, still running! It was a wonderful day for me, especially as she thinks she knows who my father is. I can't thank the GLC enough."

Yes, this was all made possible by the GLC. And it's the GLC that the Tories are trying to kill! Doesn't make sense, does it? If you want to keep London running smoothly, write to your MP, enclosing one Mars Bar wrapper. (Advt.)

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 341)

- ACROSS  
1 Italian dough dish (5)  
2 Mail sack (7)  
3 Refrain from exacting (5)  
4 Cut out (7)  
5 Feudal lord (8)  
6 Encourage (4)  
7 Environmental stress study (11)  
8 Sail into wind (4)  
9 Mockery (8)  
10 Inscribed (7)  
11 Powerful man (5)  
12 Attendant body (7)  
13 Praise lavishly (5)



- DOWN  
1 Art traditionalist (6)  
2 Animated corpse (5)  
3 Sibilant element (8)  
4 Predominance (13)  
5 Ill (4)  
6 US maize whisky (7)

- 7 Separated area (6)  
8 Search refuge (8)  
9 Impose (7)  
10 Fan heater (6)  
11 Brass percussion (6)  
12 Wooden clog (5)  
13 Light anti-machine gun (4)  
14 Fan heater (6)  
15 Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

# BILLY GRAHAM

-worth listening to!



## Billy Graham starts biggest tour

Billy Graham, the world's best known Christian evangelist, begins his biggest ever tour in Britain this month. Ahead of him are 40 meetings in 100 football grounds around the country, spread over three months.

POPULAR MESSAGE  
He will be bringing the message which has drawn audiences of almost 100 million to his meetings around the world. There can be no new world under present conditions. Something dramatic has to happen to alter man and his world.

His meetings are supported by political and religious leaders, and thousands of Christians from all the major churches. Lord Tony Blair has said, "I welcome his message and his return."

BRISTOL	Ashton Gate	May 12-19	SAT 12 & SUN 13 MAY 3.30 MON 14 to SAT 19 MAY 7.30
SUNDERLAND	Roker Park	May 26-June 2	7.30pm
NORWICH	Carrow Road	June 9-12	SAT 9, MON 11, TUE 12, JUNE 7.30pm SUN 10 JUNE 3.30pm
BIRMINGHAM	Villa Park	June 30-July 7	7.30pm Except SUN 3.30
LIVERPOOL	Anfield	July 14-21	8.00pm
IPSWICH	Portman Road	July 24-27	7.30pm

All seats FREE

This space kindly donated by friends of Billy Graham and Mission England

Divor

Winne



## MONDAY PAGE

# Divorce - American style

The Government's divorce reform proposals have been fiercely debated in and outside Parliament during the past few months. The Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill, at present in committee stage, aims to reform the present maintenance and alimony system to end the so-called "meal ticket for life" and to protect children's

interests. This emphasis on financial self-sufficiency for wives, which has been opposed by single parent groups in this country, has been one of the main planks of divorce law in the United States since the mid-1970s. BAILEY MORRIS reports on the array of problems that has emerged with the changes?

## Washington

These are the worst of times for Henry and Diane Mistle, who despite being legally divorced are living together by order of a United States court. How this bizarre state of affairs came about is a story which could be written only in America, where attempts have been made for more than a decade to correct inequities caused by the widespread adoption of "no-fault" divorce laws. In the widely-publicized case of the Mistles, a well-meaning but misguided judge in Detroit, Michigan, tried to defuse the unwritten rules of a broken marriage by sentencing them, for the sake of their children, to four years of "togetherness". Under the terms of this unique, even freakish decision, Mr Mistle is responsible for the maintenance of a comfortable house in the expensive Grosse Pointe Woods area of Detroit, as well as for grocery money and \$400 (£285) a month alimony. Mrs Mistle is responsible for cooking, housekeeping, shopping and childcare.

He sleeps in the bedroom; she sleeps in the sitting-room. Neither is allowed to bring "dates" home. If either breaks the rules, the penalty is loss of custody of their three sons. Both have denounced the judge and are fighting the decision.

## One result has been the creation of a new poverty class

As Britain embarks on its first reform of divorce law since 1969, it is useful to examine, not the terms of the Mistle decision, but the motives which prompted the attempt of 78-year-old Detroit judge David Vokes to hold together a marriage that had broken down irrevocably.

A careful reading of the decision suggests that he saw Diane Mistle as "Everywoman" of a certain age and economic background who is likely to slip through the cracks of no-fault divorce laws which no longer guarantee lifetime support. She is over 40, and has worked since her three sons - aged 14 to 16 - were born. She is one generation of women who accepted the social dictum that a woman's place was at home. To push her out into society with only a modest property settlement, outdated skills and prospects of only a very low-paying job would be to doom her to a life very close to the poverty line.

This, at any rate, was the judge's thinking, based on 20 years of hearing divorce cases. His experience taught him - and US statistics show - that since the widespread adoption of no-

fault divorce laws in 1970, first the rate of divorce has increased (one in two US marriages is legally dissolved); second terms have changed (child-support payments and other forms of financial assistance have decreased); and third, one unfortunate result had been the creation of a new class of poor families headed by single, working women.

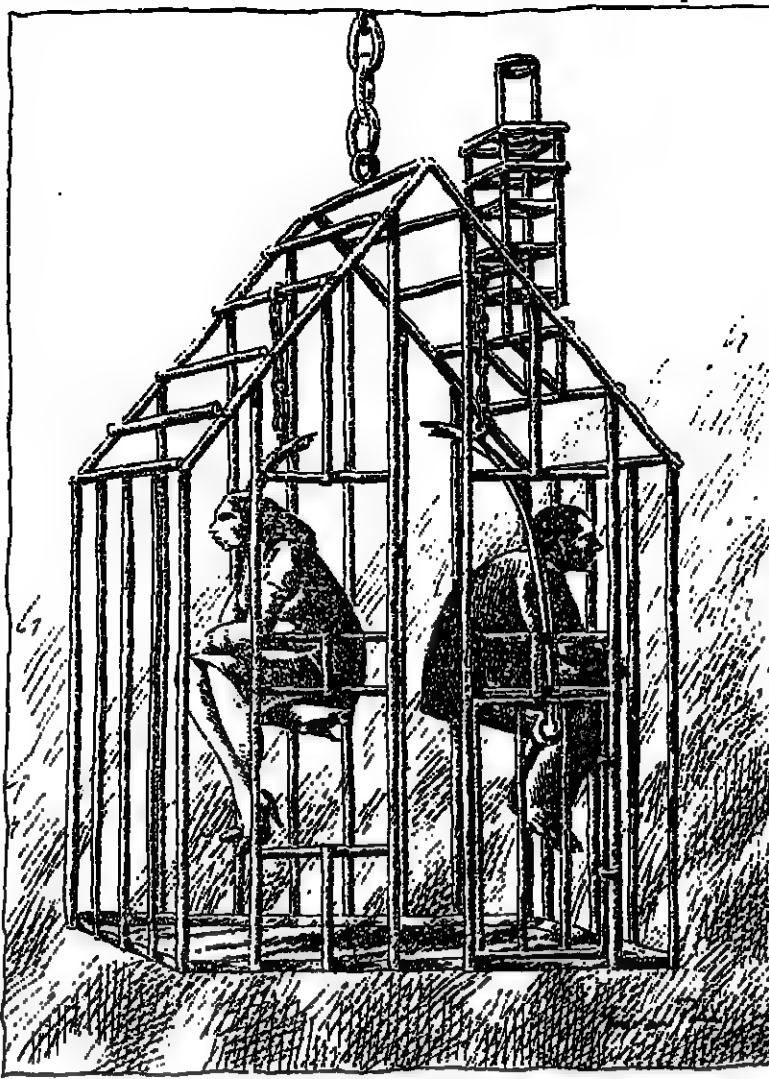
The growth of this new poverty class is thought to be a generational phenomenon, will not occur among younger, better-educated women whose career prospects are brighter. For the moment, however, it is a class that imposes new burdens on society and poses challenges to individual courts in the 51 state jurisdictions. They must put into practice specific terms of legal principles that are stated only in general terms.

In the 44 states which now require equitable distribution of marital property, it is up to the courts to decide what goes into the pot and how it should be divided. How much value should be placed, for example, on mothering, housekeeping, hostessing and other intangibles? Should the lost career potential of a foreign service wife or woman who stayed at home be taken into consideration? May a wife make claim to her husband's share of a closely-held business or to future royalties on a book written during the marriage?

As property settlements go up, and awards of alimony go down - only 10 per cent of US divorcees now receive such payments - these are the new issues courts are asked to resolve. There is no uniform response. Only 30 states, for example, weigh the economic value of housework, which has been estimated at figures varying from \$100 to \$300 a week.

Pensions are also a burning issue. In marriages in which the husbands pension was one of the main assets, wives have pressed for their share, but the practice of splitting pensions was recently interpreted by a controversial Supreme Court decision which declared in a case involving retirement pay of railway workers, that pensions may not be assigned to anyone but the worker. The court has not yet ruled on a similar case involving private pensions. It could terminate altogether the practice of pension-splitting unless Congress passes new legislation.

This "total picture" approach to divorce settlements has created a new breed of economic specialists who earn fees of \$5,000 and more to place valuations, which will stand up in court, on a medical practice, an accountancy business and the like. In some acrimonious cases, platoons of competing specialists are employed to



help divide the spoils, thus raising the cost of litigation enormously.

The excesses that have grown up under the no-fault system have led to repeated calls for reform. State legislatures and associations of trial lawyers have appealed for national, standardized, methods of evaluating the net worth of businesses and professions so as to cut divorce litigation fees. Increasingly, too, there are calls for government regulations, either state or federal, to set standards for divorce clinics in order to eliminate the assembly-line type, which encourages couples to slip in and out of marriage with ease.

But generally, it must be said that the principles guiding courts since the adoption of no-fault divorce laws are laudable and preferable to the former system of protracted court battles and lifetime alimony support. They are that property be divided fairly; that children be supported by one parent or both parents, depending on the means of each; that whenever possible alimony be eliminated, or alternatively be of a temporary nature, to encourage the ex-wife or ex-husband to support himself or herself.

In practice, however, the system often fails. Despite court awards and the concern of officials, frequently neither child support nor alimony is paid.

Most of the women in receipt of court-ordered child support payments

are getting an average of only 55 per cent of the amount due. Taking inflation into account, the amounts awarded were smaller.

Perhaps more disturbing was the finding that more than one-half of the 8.4 million women living with children under 21, in families in which no father was present, received no support at all.

## Studies reveal that divorce is harder on boys than girls

These grim statistics add up to a national problem which President Reagan mentioned in a State of the Union message this year in which he promised increased federal efforts to help mothers collect payments to bolster the deteriorating family structure.

Reagan is considering the use of computers to track down non-paying spouses - usually fathers - who attempt to go underground by changing their names or seeking employment in other states. Under this proposal, the names of non-paying fathers or mothers would be forwarded to the inland revenue service, which would deduct from federal tax refunds the money owed.

This will not, however, be enough to correct the problems faced by the children of divorce. Many, who formerly lived with both parents in middle-class homes, experience rapid deterioration in their standards of living. Support payments increasingly cease well before the age of 21, leaving the mother to pay for vocational training and university education she can rarely afford.

Economic sacrifices are only part of the problem. There are deep emotional scars as well. Despite the growing acceptance of shared physical and legal custody of children, and a new movement by fathers to gain custody, courts continue overwhelmingly to award the care of children to mothers. Often, in several years time, or after remarriage, the father drops out of the children's lives completely.

This is disastrous for boys in divorced people's families. New studies reveal that divorce is harder on boys than girls, who adjust more rapidly, often recovering from the shock in a year's time, whereas it can take a boy up to three years to recover.

As the effects on children have become better researched, courts and parents have tried to find better ways of preserving their interests. This has led to experiments known as the "empty nester" syndrome, in which both parents retain custody of children, each parent taking turns to visit, and a shared custody regime in which children shuttle back and forth.

Courts in cases where children become pawns in the divorce proceedings have also begun to appoint independent child counsellors or watchdogs to protect their rights. These are some of the problems and solutions which have arisen during the past decade of no fault divorce. Well-meaning judges like the one who heard the Mistles' case often attempt to resolve them on their own - with disastrous results.

## PENNY PERRICK

### Why my career is just the job



I have been asked to give a talk to a group of aspiring young journalists about my career. This will be difficult. My career has been of such short duration that when people ring up to ask me to write a book, discuss an article, or indeed give a talk, my first thought is that they have mistakenly been put through to my extension instead of Miles Kingston's.

However, what I could talk about at some length are the years I spent having a job. A job is to a career as Aerlan is to cashmere and yet a job is what most people end up doing. Even, I suspect, the well-motivated young women who are prepared to give up a Saturday afternoon to listen to me talk, unless they take greater care than I ever did in planning their working lives.

So probably the best thing I can do for them is to deliver a painful account of the error of my ways, on the same principle that lifters are trotted out to lecture to juvenile offenders as a means of nipping evil intentions in the bud.

My first mistake, aged eighteen, was to think of work as something that could be fitted in to the rest of the exciting mish-mash which was then my life. Lucky enough to have been taken on by *Yves* magazine, I gave only half my attention to *Yves* St Laurent, while the other half was deployed in the pursuit of love.

Work for me, and indeed for most of my female contemporaries, was a way of passing the time while we waited. Microwave-like, for something to turn up - the something being a euphemism for a husband with enough money to transform us into full-time housewives and mothers. I was so enraptured by this prospect that I hardly noticed the pleasures that might be afforded by taking one's work seriously, among them pride in one's own achievements, a certain amount of prestige and regular pay rises.

When I did notice, it was too late. By then I had two small children around which work, again, had to be fitted in. As any working woman will tell you, anyone with a modicum of efficiency can manage to combine a job with motherhood but only a brilliant few can run to a career as well.

The long sharp shock of getting divorced didn't really improve my career prospects, even though it made going back

to work an economic imperative. Guilt mingled with despair and uncertainty, which is what most divorced mothers feel most of the time, is not the best basis on which to launch a brilliant career, a move which requires bags of self-confidence and the understanding that an admiring world is ready to lay itself at your feet.

I might never have had a career at all had not two things happened: the first was that my children grew up around. The second was that I married a man who, having got a great deal of satisfaction out of his own working life, understood my wish to do the same.

Tentatively, I began to turn my life around so that everything fitted in to my work rather than the other way around. The more time and effort I put into my career, the more pleasurable it became and so it has got much easier to say "no" to things that will come between me and my current love affair with my work. Things like late nights, over-heck weekends and the conviction that I alone should be responsible for choosing, buying and gift-wrapping Christmas presents including that destined for my husband's former mother-in-law.

I do not expect today's young women to muddle through life as distractedly as I once did. It seems to me they are more disciplined in keeping their romantic natures in check and that they don't share that ridiculous fear of commitment to work that plagued me. They also seem to have more energy. "That's because they don't waste it mooching around waiting for their boy friends to ring", a friend explained crisply.

I may, perhaps, need to work harder at keeping my career aloft than they ever will and I fully intend to. Having found it at long last, I should hate to see it go.

Should you live in an area that's vulnerable to visits by the Avon Lady, think twice before letting her in.

For the woman who cry of "Ding, Dong, Avon calling" has echoed politely through the ages may now have to change her tune. Hicks B Waldron, the president and chief executive officer of Avon Products Inc. has threatened a certain amount of "restructuring" in his management and personnel teams with a view to "being almost outbreaching, more aggressive and maybe a little more risk-taking". So I fear that the Avon Lady may have abandoned her self-soap approach in favour of selling techniques that employ all the finesse of a fairground Barker.

## Frances Gibb on a hollow legal victory

### Winner loses all

When Patricia Eaton, a South London college lecturer, won £12,000 libel damages last year against her former lover in the so-called "sex blackmail" case, colleagues and friends thought she had done rather well.

The award and the £20,000 legal costs ordered against art lecturer Terry Horsley seemed some kind of compensation for three years of the emotional turmoil and strain that is always likely to attend litigation, particularly where reputation is concerned.

But it is victory that has turned distinctly sour as far as Miss Eaton is concerned. To this day, the sum total she has received from Mr Horsley is £600, most of which has gone to her solicitor, and she still faces debts of some £12,000, the amount outstanding from the legal costs incurred in clearing her name.

Libel actions, while attracting much publicity, are relatively rare. Those that are brought represent only a small percentage of cases where there may be grounds for an action but where the victim is deterred from litigation because of the immense obstacles involved. And of those writs that are issued, 95 per cent are settled out of court.

Unlike every other kind of civil action, libel does not qualify for legal aid. So any would-be litigant must, if not wealthy, at least have access to funds running to several thousand pounds. And the onus of proof is on the person suing; he must show the words were defamatory. Third, again unlike other civil actions, juries are used, which can make the results unpredictable.

Despite these obstacles, Miss Eaton, a lecturer in movement studies and health education, went ahead with her action after an 18-month affair with Mr Horsley at Avery Hill College of Further Education where they both worked. She claimed that a letter to the college head by him had severely damaged her personal and professional reputation. Copies of the letter were circulated to other staff members.

The case, which came to court last February, had all the ingredients guaranteed to attract maximum press interest, with the consequent harassment and invasion of privacy that entails.



Patricia Eaton: awarded £12,000, still owes £12,000

When the jury came out unequivocally in Miss Eaton's favour, her decision to fight in the courts seemed vindicated. But it was the judge, in summing up, who prophetically warned that there could be "no winners, only losers", at the end of the day.

"She argues that she had no choice but to sue," she says, "is that no one mentions my attempts to stop this ever reaching the courts." As far back as October 1980, her lawyers had written to Mr Horsley, saying she would settle for an apology and £25 costs. Three years later, with all attempts to settle out of court having failed, Mr Horsley faced finding £32,000.

Further legal action became necessary to secure regular payments of the money. By this time however Miss Eaton, who had already raised £7,000 with help from friends to bring the case, was out of cash. Her solicitor, who had paid all the money to her counsel, could no longer act for her without paying out of his own pocket.

So when the crunch came last October, "the day, before my fiftieth birthday", she had to fight unaided. Mr Horsley, who had been forced to take out a second mortgage on his home to fight the libel case, declared himself bankrupt and Miss Eaton was in effect his only unsecured creditor.

Last month she sought to contest the bankruptcy move. Her application was dismissed. "How is it," she asks, "that judgment can be awarded in one's favour and the other party, who does not pay, can become bankrupt and I end up not only without the money but paying more?"

The tale is a cautionary one. With legal aid not currently available, would-be litigants face a hard choice: endure possible permanent damage to reputation and livelihood; or risk thousands of pounds in seeking to vindicate them. And without any state compensation fund to help in such cases as Miss Eaton's, as some lawyers propose, even the winner can lose all.

## TALKBACK

### Teacher in a pet

From Lisa Hallgarten, 14 Antrim Grove, London.

With reference to headmaster John Pearman's "Comment" (Monday Page, May 7), I would like to comment on the role and performance of Britain's teachers from a different perspective. As a student in a large London comprehensive, I reject totally the idea that teachers underestimate their responsibility to their pupils. My long experience as a pupil has shown me the great extent of my teachers' concern both in their time spent in preparation and marking and in their acceptance of much unpaid overtime. It is precisely because teaching is a caring profession that, like nurses, teachers can be exploited financially through their own genuine concern, and the public outcry that inevitably follows strike threats.

Finally, to claim that teachers are "unaccountable" is to insult the very intelligence of school students. Most students know if a teacher is lazy, inefficient or indifferent to their needs, and I would put it to John Pearman that the potential scorn and condemnation of a class of thirty children usually ensures that teachers do their job well. Perhaps, if he would venture from the security of his headmaster's office, into the classrooms of my school, he would see the stupidity of his shortsighted and inaccurate "Comment".

From John Adams, 16 Laburnum Crescent, Kidlington, Oxford.

I cannot allow another unnecessary holiday to go unused, and so abandon my CSE-marking to take issue with John Pearman's opinions.

"Most teachers are paid far too much already." Perhaps when I started teaching in 1967, it would have taken my entire gross salary for three years to purchase our extremely modest little house. This is still the case. The difference is that I am now at the top of my scale as head of department in a large comprehensive, with little chance of promotion.

"And they are paid it, in many cases, for doing far too little." Head teachers are paid twice as much as the average teacher, and have very little contact with the classroom. Perhaps Mr Pearman has lost touch altogether.



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## PARIS DIARY

Frank Johnson

### Verdi-nine steps, and dozens more

During the 1970s the composer and conductor Pierre Boulez wrote a much-discussed article entitled: "Opera houses? Blow them up!"

His view, in its essentials, was that opera, as organized in our time, is a decadent, conservative, philistine activity unrelated to the realities of the second half of the twentieth century. Since he wrote the article, the French have tended to agree with him in increasing numbers. So the audience for opera has been going up.

This was not what M Boulez had in mind. He was, and still is, against all those cumbersome performances of, say, *Aida*, with fat people strolling around with Art Deco lampshades on their heads pretending to be ancient Egyptians. Such goings-on were a waste of the subsidies enjoyed by the great opera houses.

I believe that both M Boulez and the audiences that like lampshade *Aidas* are right. Such *Aidas* could well afford to pay for themselves and the proper place for them is not the opera house but the sports stadium. This Paris has just proved with an excellent series of *Aida* at the new stadium at Bercy. The building was opened a few weeks ago with round-the-clock cycling and continued with world middleweight boxing, though, in an uncharacteristic failure of showmanship, the management failed to incorporate those two attractions in the performance of *Aida* I saw.

The various casts for the 16 performances tended to be as strong as one would find in most leading houses (for the benefit of opera bores, the cast I heard was Dimitrova, Gheorghiu, Cossutta, and Vinco, with the baritone being the less well-known, though perfectly acceptable, Giuseppe Scandola. Michel Plisson conducted the Toulouse Opera Orchestra).

The producer and designer was Vittorio Rossi who has worked on spaghetti westerns. I suppose an *Aida* in Paris is a frogs leg middle-eastern. For the benefit of non-opera bores, the "production number" in *Aida* is the Triumph Scene: the Egyptian army marching across the stage to a very famous trumpet tune, having thrashed the primitive Ethiopians. In the opera house, the logistics involved have traditionally been solved by having most of the Egyptians march around behind the scenery and come back again in exactly the same way, except for those carrying primitive Ethiopian trophies - invariably chamber pots - who change trophies backstage, substituting the chamber pot for, say, a huge shoe horn.

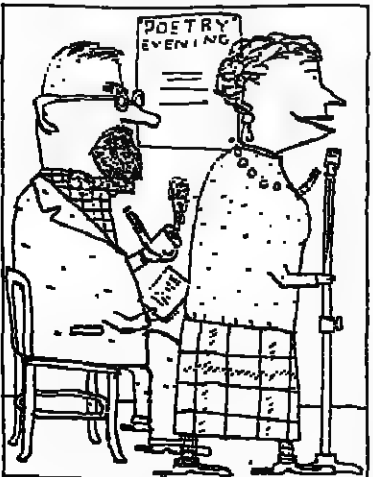
At Bercy, the scene consisted of a vast flight of steps up to the top of the stadium, from a hole at the bottom of these steps processed about 300 soldiers who marched up to the roof, lights playing on their golden helmets. Glorious. Elsewhere, Signor Rossi's production was more conventional. Lamp shades were worn.

### And an operatic vista of Bastille and glass

The centre of nearly every capital in the world, it seems, has been influenced, or ruined, by the Francophone Swiss Le Corbusier except Paris, the capital of the country of which he was a naturalized citizen. This is a great source of irritation to me as a native of London, a city which has taken much punishment from the Modern Movement of which Le Corbusier is part, or possibly all. Paris's wise decision not to allow itself to be razed by the Germans in 1940 meant that it did not have to be rebuilt after the war, a necessity which gave the modernists their chance in London and elsewhere.

I was passing the Opera the other day when four workmen emerged to load into a van the model of the new opera house to be built in the Place de la Bastille. Since we of the public had not been shown any of the projected designs, this was a chance to inspect it, especially since there was, as always in Paris, a delay in the loading while the men cursed one another, as to which bit should go first. The design was bold, exciting and full of windows - it is, in short, old fashioned Modern. Lovers of Paris's glories as we all are, I came away rather pleased that the city was no longer escaping lightly.

BARRY FANTONI



'Now Mr. Milkwood will read his latest poem, The Battle of Ravens-craig'

# Why Labour needs a pit ballot

by Jimmy Reid

For the great majority of people one issue overrides all others in the coalfields dispute: the miners' right to vote on whether they should be on strike. Everything else - the future of the industry, picketing - is secondary.

But even Labour's tendency to mistake the voice of the zealot for that of the common man cannot explain the extraordinary way that the party leadership has reacted to the dispute.

It is only a year or so since Labour was convulsed by a fierce debate on party democracy. The fight was won by those demanding wide-ranging democratic change. Labour MPs are now subject to mandatory reelection and the leader is elected by an electoral college representing the entire party.

For Labour, the issue of democracy is vital for reasons both practical and strategic. A major obstacle to the growth of socialist ideas in Britain and Western Europe is undoubtedly the fear of millions that socialism means a totalitarian, Soviet-style society in which talk of freedom and civil rights is a sham.

The electoral advance of a Labour Party with a left-wing programme for socialist change will largely be determined by its ability to convince people that it stands for democratic change. It must therefore

demonstrate a consistent fidelity to democratic principles.

All such talk and promises will sound hollow and hypocritical if Labour looks away and refuses to speak out when democratic rights are cynically denied to workers within a section of the labour movement itself.

Another aspect which must be troubling Labour is the way the NUM's national delegate conference has been used to circumvent a national ballot. The equivalent of what has been done in the NUM would be a majority vote in the House of Commons to cancel a general election on the grounds that Parliament is a higher body and does not need a mandate from the electorate.

Here was a test of Labour's commitment to democracy. But of the party leadership only Neil Kinnock has criticized the decision to abandon the ballot box. Indeed, the party's national executive has backed the strike without reservation, which must mean support for the refusal of a ballot.

Kinnock has argued that a ballot is necessary to make the miners' strike "coherent" and to make possible the level of support from other workers which is needed to win. Events have proved him right. In its

ninth week the strike is not yet solid and will not be so without a national ballot. Other workers are obviously reluctant to vote for action in support of miners on strike who still have not had a vote on whether they should be on strike.

All this can legitimately be interpreted as revealing a distressing disregard for democratic norms of behaviour and conduct inside the British labour movement. This, however, would be untrue. In private, many Labour MPs are bitterly opposed to what they describe as "Scargill's antics".

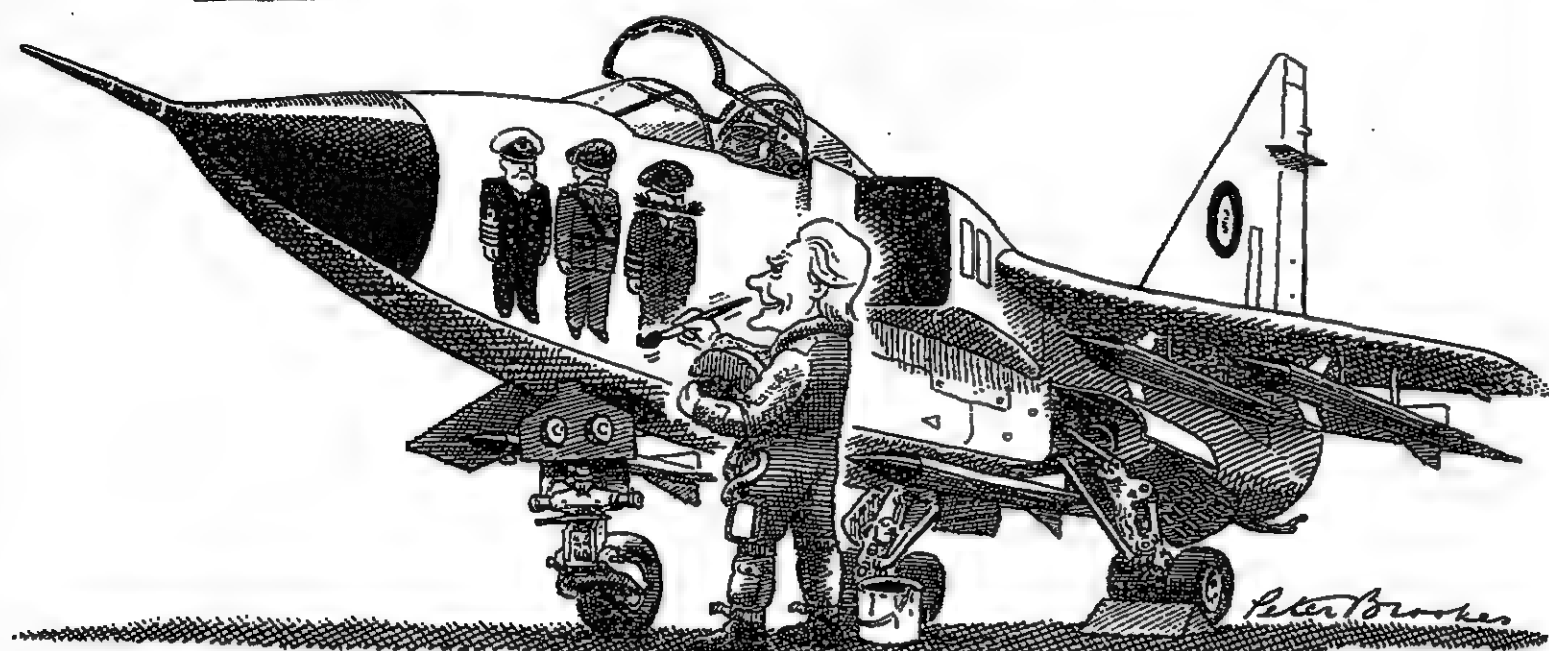
Why then, this contrast between private hostility and a public endorsement so sweeping as implicitly to include the rejection of a ballot? The answer is even more worrying. It is fear. To disagree with Arthur Scargill is feared by the zealots inside the Labour party as treason, and the MPs are the most vulnerable.

If the party is seen to support or acquiesce with those who would deny democracy here and now to workers, how can a future Labour government be trusted with national democracy? It's no good saying, "Of course you can trust us". Deeds speak louder than words.

The author led the shipworkers' sit-in on the Upper Clyde in 1971. He resigned from the Communist Party in 1976 and joined Labour.

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## Rodney Cowton on the ructions over top-level defence cuts



### Can brass deflect a Heseltine misguided missile?

Emotions are beginning to run high at the Ministry of Defence. Before long even the stony bosoms of the female figures which dominate the main entrance will start to heave with the tensions generated as Mr Michael Heseltine's managerial revolution gets under way.

Not that he has actually achieved very much yet, as today's Statement on the Defence Estimates will reveal. But he has asked a lot of questions, his fingers have probed some delicate and fleshy areas of a corpulent defence establishment, and people are beginning to tremble at the prospect of the surgery which he will obviously demand.

The Ministry has been rather proud of its efforts to achieve economies and become cost conscious over the last 20 years. Long before Mr Heseltine arrived on the scene a senior civil servant could effortlessly tell you the cost of a marginal improvement in the quality of lavatory paper used throughout the services (£400,000 a year, if memory serves).

Mr Heseltine, however, is convinced that there is a lot of flab still to be found, though it may be tightly corseted and not easily visible, and he is intent on excising it. And if he has to stand on the patient's corns in order to examine the abdomen, well stoicism has long been recognized as a military virtue.

He is focusing particular attention on one area: his scheme, announced in outline in March, to reorganize the highest echelons of the Ministry and revolutionize the process of policy formation.

The details are now being worked out and will be revealed in a white paper in July, but in essence he aims to strip the Army, Navy and Air Force of their policy-forming staffs, and concentrate them under the wing of the Chief of Defence Staff, who rises supreme and imperial above the individual services.

This has already generated in the correspondence columns of *The Times* the biggest salvo from the late great - retired Chiefs of Defence Staff. First Sea Lords and a minister - that has been fired since Sir John Nott in 1981 began

developing his plans to run down the Navy.

The viewpoints have varied, but even the most sympathetic to Mr Heseltine have warned against depriving the individual services of the ability to offer advice on strategy and policy.

Not only have many of the greatest names in British defence of the last 10 or 20 years joined in this demonstration of fire-power, but others appear only to be biding their time before revealing either outright opposition to Mr Heseltine's scheme, or at least some highly pertinent questions.

But it is not only the greats of yesterday who are up in arms. There is believed to be anxiety in the Air Force Board of the Defence Council, and the Army Board is fuming and would undoubtedly fulminate too, but for the Official Secrets Act and a certain instinct for self-preservation. Some months ago the Army decided that 1984 would be the year in which it would strap on its sharpest sword and compose its features into their leanest and meanest look. It was going to do its own stream-lining and never again would it be possible for anyone to accuse it of being top heavy.

But that has not deterred Mr Heseltine. The Army now fears that Mr Heseltine's scheme may delay the implementation of its own cuts, and that the two may not be entirely compatible.

All this is neatly encapsulated in the fact that the man charged with the primary responsibility for carrying through the Army's review, Lieutenant-General Sir James Glover, Vice-Chief of the General Staff, is himself in a post which Mr Heseltine intends to abolish.

There is no doubt at all that there is now great anger and apprehension about Mr Heseltine's designs. Whether later in the summer it will lead to resignations or demands for meetings with the Prime Minister it is too early to say.

It would certainly be wrong to dismiss the anxiety as simply that of men concerned with self-interest and career prospects, or from the other extreme, to argue that the whole exercise is irrelevant because the Ministry of Defence is an undeflatable tyre which will quickly recover its old shape whatever you do to it.

There are serious issues at stake, for Mr Heseltine's plan constitutes the biggest top level shake-up since the individual service ministries were brought together in a unified Defence Ministry 20 years ago.

Many people are waiting to see the detailed elaboration of the scheme before forming a view, but others believe that even the outline scheme makes it clear that Mr Heseltine is heading in the wrong direction.

They argue that in recent years the balance of power and influence between the Chief of Defence Staff and the chiefs of the individual services has swung far enough in the direction of the CDS. In pursuing a tidy system Mr Heseltine may be in danger of shutting the door on the best advice, which can often emerge from conflicting interests vigorously pursued.

They believe he may be endangering the professionalism and morale of the individual services. They also argue that in the Falklands conflict the existing system came through the most rigorous test since the

Second World War with credit, and that it is nonsense now to tamper with the fundamentals of a tested system. Those not opposed in principle to a strengthening of the role of the Chief of Defence Staff will nevertheless require Mr Heseltine's detailed plan, when it emerges, to meet some important questions:

● If the CDS is to have sole responsibility for the formulation of policy recommendations and the conduct of operations in war, how are future occupants of that enhanced post to be selected and given the breadth of training and experience to fit them for it?

● Will the new hinge which Mr Heseltine is designing between policy formulation and management of the services be strong enough to cope with a severe crisis? Mr Heseltine plainly believes that the present system of policy formulation is cumbersome and rusty. But there are those who fear that the link in his new system will be so weak that with the first unpredicted stress the gate will fall off the hinge.

● How are operational requirements to be determined and resources allocated? The present system in which Chiefs of Staff wheel and deal for resources may be undignified but given the extraordinarily difficult nature of the decisions to be taken, some fear that a managerially more tidy system will not necessarily be more efficient.

Ultimately what it is all about is the reconciliation of the tensions created by the fact that the Ministry of Defence is simultaneously a policy-forming department which has to get the best value it can out of a £17,000m budget - the second largest of any government department - and an operational headquarters which has to have the robustness and the reserves to be able to cope with the most severe test to which society is ever exposed: war.

The question is, can Mr Heseltine get the balance right. Some fear he is about to reveal the inadequacy of a purely commercial managerial approach to defence.

Richard Evans

Ferdinand Mount

## Discarding the seal of office

The circus poster looked odd, and rather stark. There were a couple of tigers, no prancing ponies, no Madame Fifi and her Amazing Performing Poodles. This was, in short, a circus without animals. The great Mr Gerry Cottle explained in a programme note: "The reason we can't even have a horse or a dog in the circus is that many local councils won't allow us to". Everyone agrees that it is still a marvellous circus, but it is not what it used to be.

You are still welcome to display orang-utans playing lacrosse, as long as you do not do it on council property. For councils may be as choosy as any private individual about what activities they permit on their land. And an increasing number of them choose not to entertain circuses that include so much as a performing flea. Islington Council has circulated an Animals Charter and is confident that its fellow Labour-controlled councils in inner London will join the ban, which is already in force. I understand, in places as far-flung as Southend and Barrow-in-Furness. If it catches on across the country, the freedom to present a circus with animals may become purely notional, since for most of the year all the non-human performers would have to be in ruinously expensive kennels. Thus, in a most surprising show of time, the sight of a blonde on a pommel or a beach-ball on a seal's nose may well become a memory.

Observe the simplicity of the process. No need to bother Parliament. No wearisome bill with clauses and sub-clauses, no need to whip and lobby MPs. A mere resolution by the council is enough. For this is local democracy - or so it is supposed to be - or so it is put in another way, "capricious" and "irresponsible". If Ken and Sue and Ted have a thing about animals in circuses, then we must all show solidarity.

"Local democracy" is different from parliamentary democracy in another way too. It is based on ownership. The local council tends to enjoy the fullness of power only on land and inside buildings which it actually owns: parks and ponds, libraries and schools and housing estates. Only on council property are front doors painted red by order. Little Black Sambo removed from the bookshelves and circus dogs banned from jumping through hoops. And therefore the less council property and the smaller the arena for bossing people around, the better.

The good thing is that other forms of animal training appear to bask in municipal approval. Barbara Woodhouse has not yet been denounced to the authorities. In fact no fete these days is complete without some handier, usually carrying a few pounds overweight, running alongside Rover urging him on over the assault course. At the city's edge, every spare patch of tithes is pressed into service as a riding

school. Councils gladly offer their land and their assistance to horse shows and dog shows. The human itch to train anything - dogs, roses, footballers - is still widely regarded as an admirable trait.

How much of it all is done with kindness? Breaking in a horse is not an entirely painless exercise, nor is teaching a child a reliable backhand. And is it the training or the captivity that is objected to? Would you rather be a performing seal or one of Ken Livingstone's newts? I am not sure, and nor, I suspect, is anyone else. If cruelty is alleged, is it the answer to strengthen the law against cruelty to animals in a straightforward way, or to ensure that it is properly enforced, rather than in extinguish a source of harmless enjoyment and employment for circus people who may well be as fond of animals as anyone who has ever said "sit" to a dog?

The trouble is that circuses are out of fashion. No progressive town is shed the day the circus leaves town. If Nelly the Elephant packed her trunk and said goodbye to the circus, the Militant Tendency's animal rights group would applaud her liberation from capitalist exploitation. Yet they have circuses in the Soviet Union. Circus people are said to have given blood in them, and gypsies are very much "in". Why are circuses so unmistakably out?

I suspect it is because circuses are associated with vulgar pleasure and with nothing else: a circus is simply a spectacle. It does not aim to improve or elevate us; unlike a gymnastic display, it does not demonstrate the glorious state of the nation's health; unlike folk-dancing, it does not pay homage to national tradition; unlike winning the World Cup, it does not mean We Are The Greatest.

It belongs to the realm of grubby commercial, innocent pleasure which irritates Prodnoses the world over: the world of comics and boiled sweets and Space Invaders and untipped cigarettes and the Eurovision Song Contest. I like to think of a Prodnoses Union Conference, which would bring together the most interfering sort of Tory MP with the most aggressive feminists and health campaigners: there they would all be preparing more and more ferocious plans for stopping people doing things.

Meanwhile, somewhere on the Welsh border where some sheep, country council has turned a blüme eye, the rest of us would be lying in the heather, in a haze of alcohol and nicotine, while all around children dazed on lollies and horror comics waited for the circus to begin. Then, would, of course, be lions and tigers and horses and elephants and monkeys. But there would also be parrots singing numbers from the Top Ten and seals in flippers performing risqué sketches, and dolphins diving for cornucopias. Later in the evening there would be kangaroo racing.

Anne Sofer

## Maybe it's because I'm a Londoner

"But can we afford London?" asked a fellow guest at a dinner party recently. And predictably I choked with outrage over my chilli con carne. When I had controlled myself I charged him with all sorts of reactionary tendencies, the least of which was a desire to tease earnest women councillors.

But although I bridle at any suggestion that London, particularly inner-London, does not deserve more economic support, I have to admit on reflection that the question is legitimate, even though the answer may still be yes.

Do cities any longer make economic sense? Their historic *raison d'être* - ports and crossroads and centres of industry - having been superseded by the new geography of orbital motorways and micro-electronic communication, what is now to keep them alive?

One short answer to that is - politics. Decaying big cities are becoming a more and more necessary factor in the party political game. Labour needs them to preserve its support; the Conservatives need them to ensure that Labour's most visible performers are sufficiently left-wing to frighten off everyone outside those municipal bastions.

The Government has over the last five years withdrawn hundreds of millions of pounds from the big cities, and now plans, through rate-capping, to ensure that services are further reduced. It looks like - and indeed a cynic would say it is - a deliberate policy to create conditions in which talk of anarchy and confrontation flourishes. One can only assume that Mrs Thatcher is watching with equanimity, not to say rubbing her hands with glee, as one Labour group after another falls under the domination of Liverpool-style quasi-revolutionaries.

As for Labour's need of the big cities, it goes deeper even than traditional electoral support. There is also the close identification of the New Left with the public sector white-collar unions. I could not, if I tried, put the argument more savagely than it has been put by one of their own internal critics. A paper produced two years ago by a group of south London Fabians (*Labour's Divisions - their social roots: Dulwich Discussion Documents*) portrays the New Left as a sort of latter-day colonial civil service: children of the middle classes providing themselves with an ever increasing number of jobs by convincing everyone concerned of the utter dependence and incompetence of the native population.

"For a group making its living out of the management of poverty," the author drily points out, "a high and sustained level of poverty is the first requisite".

Both these political portraits are parodies. But that there is something in them, explains why no fundamental discussions - on the future nature of cities is being held both sides have too high a stake in the status quo.

There is considerable muddle and confused thinking about what that status quo in fact is. For instance, it is common for London politicians to point to the density of population as an indicator of stress and deprivation: "Look at our tightly-packed, problem-ridden areas," we cry; "they demonstrate that we need more resources". But at the same time we are all wringing our hands over the depopulation that has taken place over the last 20 years, with its trail of school and hospital closures. "Look at our dying metropolises," we cry, "bring back all the factories and workshops, and the skilled craftsmen who have left for the new towns..." Do we know what we want, or have we any vision of what a city should be?

I am not talking about blueprints or development plans; and all that committee fodder that gathers dust in municipal archives, but more about imagery. Throughout history, from the vision of battlemented white towers on a distant hill as in a renaissance painting, to the glitter and raucous vulgarity of New York's Broadway in the 1930s, "the city" has been an idea to quicken the pulse and lift the heart: it is a quality of excitement which London, on a warm spring evening, still abundantly has. Yet there is a danger now that the very word "city" will become associated only with negative images: decay, crime, vandalism, racial tension and despair.

To retain, or regain, their magnetism, cities are going to have to adapt to new economic facts of life in ways we can only dimly perceive at present. Maybe they will become places people choose to live in because they like city life rather than places they are forced to live in for housing or employment reasons. Maybe there will be as much commuting out as commuting in. But whatever happens we must get away from the habit of mind that sees "inner city policy" as a matter of managing a gigantic social institution. There is - or could be - plenty of life in the old metropolis yet.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/JLEA for St Pancras North.





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## NINETEEN NINETY-SEVEN

In trying to reach agreement with China over Hongkong, the British government faces an awkward, even wretched, dilemma. China's claim to sovereignty over Hongkong is in the end incontestable, not least because the British-held lease on most of the colony is due to expire in thirteen years time. And it is made more acceptable by China's promise that it will preserve the present Hongkong system intact for fifty years after 1997. For this reason the British government is sensible to acknowledge, as the Foreign Secretary did in Hongkong late last month, that "it would not be realistic to think of an agreement that provides for British administration in Hongkong after 1997". The dilemma lies in the fact the government is seeking an agreement that is not only acceptable to Britain and China, but also to the people of Hongkong. And a large proportion of Hongkong's five million or so people have the gravest doubts about an agreement that would place Hongkong under the control of China.

It would not do to portray the feelings of Hongkong people in black-and-white terms. Most of the colony's predominantly Cantonese population have a vague sense of loyalty to China, and more specifically to Guangdong province, across the border from Hongkong, of which they are culturally and linguistically a part. And although a large number of them have left China, legally or illegally, during the past thirty years, many have done so in search of economic betterment rather than as political refugees. Nor do most ordinary people in Hongkong identify themselves in any but the remotest way with the British administration there. But the fact remains that most people in Hongkong know enough about how the Communist Party has ruled China since 1949 to worry about their future after 1997, and to want the firmest possible

assurances that the status quo in Hongkong will be maintained after the British leave.

Some of Hongkong's worries and doubts have been conveyed to London during the past week or so by two visiting delegations from the territory. The delegations have represented very different social strata, and have addressed themselves to two very different, but equally important, issues. The first, made up of appointed members of the colony's two main organs of government, the Executive and Legislative Councils, has been pressing for firmer guarantees for the future than they believe the Sino-British agreement now being negotiated will provide. They have asked for an agreement that would spell out in precise detail the ways in which Hongkong's present legal, social and economic systems will be maintained after 1997, and would provide working assurances of its own inviolability. They also want to see the 2½ million or so holders of British Dependent Territory passports in Hongkong given the right of settlement in the United Kingdom.

The councillors' views have been supplemented by those of the other delegation, made up of representatives of students, community groups and other grassroot organizations. This second delegation has been calling for the swift creation of a properly-functioning democratic machinery in Hongkong, so that when China institutes a system of "Hongkong governed by Hongkong people", as it promises to do after 1997, Hongkong will have a sufficiently sturdy democracy to defend its new-found autonomy.

These are all entirely worthy aims; but some are more practicable than others. Many are already shared by the British government. Sir Geoffrey Howe made it clear in Hongkong last month, for example, that Britain wants an agreement with China

that will formally record detailed arrangements for the post-1997 period. And both Chinese and British officials in Hongkong have intimated that the territory needs to develop a greater degree of democracy between now and 1997.

So far the British authorities in Hongkong have been very cautious about moving too fast towards a more democratic system there, apparently because they are afraid of offending Chinese communist susceptibilities. Certainly Peking will only accept democracy in Hongkong on its own terms - that is, a limited democracy, carefully controlled. But the British authorities there should not let this become a pretext for doing too little and too late.

There are other demands which, unfortunately, no British government could accede to. It is beyond the power of any government, either in London or in Peking, to guarantee absolutely the course of events in the next century. One can only note that Peking has always been scrupulous in observing international agreements. Its assurances about Hongkong will be given within the framework of such an agreement, and its international reliability will thus depend on their implementation. That is in itself a form of guarantee.

There are also practical political limits to what can be done for British Dependent Territory passport-holders and - while every effort must be made to open Britain's doors to those in Hongkong with convincing reasons to fear the future, or to find homes for them elsewhere - it is better to acknowledge this sad fact than to pretend otherwise. With a draft Sino-British agreement now only a few months away, it is important to strike the right balance between what is needed and what is feasible. When the House of Commons comes to debate Hongkong later this week it will serve the people of the colony best by bearing this in mind.

## TURKEY CONDEMNED BUT NOT SANCTIONED

"History will recall how a community fighting for nothing but its liberty has been treated by this body," said Mr Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, commenting on the resolution passed by the UN Security Council on Friday night. He called it a "Greek-Cypriot resolution supported by people who do not know where Cyprus is".

In point of fact most of those who supported the resolution know all too well where Cyprus is, and few better than the government of the United Kingdom. Any who might not have been fully up to date on the Cyprus problem had the benefit of an admirably detailed and clear report from the Secretary-General, circulated on May 2. In it he gave an account of the latest phase of his "good offices" mission - the phase that followed the Security Council's condemnation of the Turkish Cypriot UDI last November.

However negative in itself, the UDI did at least have the merit of reviving international concern about the Cyprus issue. Encouraged both by the Turkish government and by President

Kyprianou, the Secretary-General worked out a scenario under which the UDI would be not abrogated but frozen ("there will be no follow-up") pending the outcome of his diplomatic efforts, while in return the Greek side would abstain from any "further step to internationalise the Cyprus problem" - something the Turkish side always objects to.

But Mr Denktaş, when presented with this scenario in March, replied that if his side were to "refrain from proceeding with the implementation of the natural and legal consequences of its declaration of independence" then in return the Greek side should "refrain from falsely asserting that it is 'the government of the whole of Cyprus' and agree to refrain from all conduct appertaining to such an assumption", in other words should discard the only bargaining counter it has to offer in exchange for the withdrawal of thirty thousand Turkish troops, namely its monopoly of international legitimacy.

Even while negotiations were proceeding on these points between him and the Secretary-General, Mr Denktaş announced

on April 10 that his community would go ahead with a constitutional referendum and then elections, and on April 17 formal diplomatic relations were established between his state and the Republic of Turkey.

As Señor Pérez de Cuéllar puts it, "the developments outlined in this report speak for themselves". Mr Denktaş, as has long been obvious to anyone who follows his conduct in detail rather than merely listens to his rhetoric, does not want a federal solution. He prefers to be the president of his Lilliputian state. The Turkish government might prefer a federal solution in theory but finds it easier politically to support Mr Denktaş. The United States would prefer a negotiated solution of some sort, but finds it strategically inexpedient to have a serious argument with Turkey; hence the American abstention on Friday night. Other powers would like the Turkish attitude to be different but do not see anything practical they can do about it. So the Turks are condemned but not sanctioned, and the UN system loses a little more of its credibility.

## THE VIEW FROM CABLE STREET

The best place to watch the London Marathon is half-way down the course in Cable Street, Stepney, where the East Enders go. The road is narrow, lived-in and legendary for an altogether nastier spectacle, the famous 1936 battle between the police and anti-fascists determined to erect a barricade against a march by Mosley's British Union of Fascists. Yesterday the sun shone, the police were affable, a steel band played and produced an electric effect on the runners. Mr Jonathan Aitken, MP, gave the schoolchildren beating their drums a gracious wave, others jiggled, many adjusted their pace to the rhythm, nearly all smiled. A schoolteacher from a nearby borough stopped and adopted a mock athletic pose for his adoring pupils cheering at the roadside. Athletes carried placards advertising charities (there was one supporting the miners). There were horses, a Mickey Mouse, Superman and a longship-shaped phalanx of Vikings. Once the front-runners had swept by, it was easy to forget in Cable Street that this was one of the great events in the world marathon calendar.

In four years the London Marathon has become an institution in a country where it usually takes centuries rather than decades to become a tradition. It is now as much of a

feature of the sporting year as Henley, Ascot and Wimbledon. Already it has an air of timelessness. It would be highly unfortunate, therefore, if the abolition of the Greater London Council, which plays an important year-round administrative role in supporting the marathon, damaged its smooth continuation. Seven London boroughs are traversed by the runners. Each will receive a share of yesterday's profits of £50,000. If no post-GLC contingency plan is in place, a file should be opened today by Mr Christopher Brasher and Mr John Disley, the founding fathers of the race. Next year's marathon seems secure. But Mr Brasher reckons a race with so many finishers could not be staged in 1986 and beyond without the continuation of County Hall.

The London Marathon is the most visible part of a wider phenomenon - the running boom that has hit Britain in the past decade. Last year 136 marathons were run in the United Kingdom involving an estimated 149,000 finishers - from the 15,775 who crossed the line in London to the 30 who completed the course in the Isles of Scilly. London is by no means the toughest on the athletes. That honour seems to be shared by the Snowdonia and Duchy (of Cornwall) marathons with 460 and 142 finishers respectively.

Behind these statistics lie thousands of individual training regimes, carrying people through the dark and cold, the blazing sunshine and heat.

The charm of long-distance running, however, remains lost on many non-participants despite the general surge in popularity and the appeal of television coverage. It certainly lives up to its cliché and appeals to loners wishing to pit themselves in solitude against extremities and fierce exertion. Many recoil from the jostling procession through city streets that London witnessed yesterday, preferring an empty river bank or country road. It is just about the most efficient way of undertaking hard exercise. Looking at the footwear, for example, the advances made since Mr Jim Peters in the early 1950s used to break the world record in a pair of plimsolls bought from Woolworths, are astounding. But the capital equipment required, unless you are a real faddist, is still very simple - vest, shorts and trainers. The local authorities provide the roads. The rest - muscle, lungs, grit - is up to you. It would be a pity if the running boom faded like hula-hoops or skateboards. It is a heartening, stirring phenomenon as anyone who witnessed the fourth London Marathon will tell.

## Sectional views in mining industry

From Mr Joe Ashton, MP for Bassetlaw (Labour)

Sir, For nine weeks now my constituency of Bassetlaw, North Nottinghamshire, has been a no-man's land between the Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire miners.

Children, especially since the disruption of free school meals by the teachers, are living on soup or beans. Nationally, well over 2,000 miners have been arrested and usually handcuffed and fingerprinted too. I personally was detained by police and refused permission to visit pits in my own constituency on a "freedom ride" to show a busload of journalists what was happening.

Yet the Prime Minister, who, on the steps of Downing Street promised to bring harmony into discord, does nothing.

It is obvious the Nottinghamshire miners will not strike without a ballot because they work in long-life pits. Against this we have the miners of Wales and Kent and Scotland saying why should a Nottinghamshire miner in a safe pit have a vote to put them out of a job?

What is not generally realized is that coalfields are competitive. The closure of one pit can mean a sigh of relief in another. To insist on a national ballot is as logical as demanding that members of the NUJ on *The Sunday Times* should have a vote on the future of *The Observer*.

However, there is one simple proposal the Prime Minister could make to get the two sides around the table. That is to offer a substantial reduction in the price of electricity.

It would keep pits open, help our industry to compete with foreign goods, bring down inflation, and might even gain Mrs Thatcher lots of votes from pensioners.

The savings on the high redundancy pay and life-long unemployment, plus the current surcharge on gas, electricity, and North Sea oil, would easily absorb it. So would cancelling the Sizewell nuclear power station which we don't need.

We have so much energy in this country it ought to be coming out of the plug on the wall like water out of a tap, with each sector being used to coordinate into an energy policy which is best for Britain.

Yet, unlike any other businessman who cuts the price when there is a glut, including farmers and the EEC, the Government keeps the price of energy high, sacrificing thousands of jobs, to provoke punch-ups on picket lines.

Harmony into discord? Tell it to the kids living on soup, Mrs Thatcher.

Yours sincerely,  
JOE ASHTON,  
House of Commons.

## Grim outlook for arts

From Professor Sir Ernst Gombrich, FBA

Sir, Mr Wealdens Bell (May 4) should not be allowed to confuse the issue raised by Professor Bernhardt's warning (April 27) about the future of the arts.

Granted that we educators must never be complacent while the majority of our fellow citizens have found no access to the riches of great literature, great art or great music, should not this sad situation make us resist all the more those ominous attempts to deprive the flickering lamps of civilization of the last drop of this financial fuel?

Yours etc,  
E. H. GOMBRICH,  
19 Briardale Gardens, NW3.  
May 4.

## Ultra in the East

From Mr James Rusbridger

Sir, Before Professor Hinsley writes his final account of Allied signals (report, May 3) intelligence in the last war, I hope he will be allowed to include details of operations in the Far East. The Foreign Office still refuses to release any Japanese Ultra for public inspection claiming that to do so would not be in the public interest.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES RUSBRIDGER,  
7 Tremena Road,  
St Austell,  
Cornwall.

## Captain Oates's medal

From the Colonel of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards

Sir, Your Sale Room Correspondent's article of May 5 about the sale of Captain Oates's Polar Medal prompts me to write to say that his regiment, the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, is quickly forming a fund to buy the medal.

I am glad to say that we are fairly convinced of success. We have the backing of the Gilbert White and Oates Memorial Museum at Shelborne and indeed that of the Oates family and are very happy that one of the major national museums is likely to be able to help us to a most noteworthy extent. I am, of course, seeking help wherever I can find it. In our determination to find the funds to buy the medal, our belief that this regiment is the fitting holder of this significant award is sustained by the entry in Captain Scott's diary:

"Oates' last thoughts were of his mother, but immediately before he took pride in thinking that his Regiment would be pleased with the way in which he met his death."

We are indeed proud of him and, as you may know, to this day celebrate annually his example of courage, both in the regiment and in London.

Yours faithfully,  
ALLAN FINDLAY,  
Home Headquarters,  
5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards,  
Greenwood Lodge,  
Griffiths,  
Petworth, West Sussex.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Checks and balances for Ireland

From Mr J. E. Hamilton

Sir, Mr Peter Jay's forthright presumption (May 4) that (a) Westminster has the right to act without the consent of the people of Northern Ireland and (b) expressing the opinion that a democratic United Ireland is a solution, would somehow lead Ulster Protestants to think constructively, seems, to say the least, paradoxical.

I do not follow how being robbed of our nationality against your will and then being propelled into adopting another nationality that you plainly do not want would encourage a single Loyalist to think positively at all.

Peter Jay, having discovered that it is not very rewarding to keep, say, half a million Irish people against their will as citizens of the United Kingdom, seeks apparently to double the error by consigning about a million British people against their will to citizenship of a united Ireland.

The nationalistic link of these half million Irish proved capable of withstanding 60 years of indoctrination by the UK. Peter Jay gives not one scrap of evidence to suggest that the British in Ireland, summarily sold off, will not prove as determined, and indigestible to his State of Ireland.

The similarity goes further than this: there is very little doubt that one of the major reasons for the intransigence of the IRA is a belief, as a minority, they were sold short and betrayed by the South. At the time of the Lloyd George settlement discussions in the South centred not upon how to represent the Northern Ireland nationalists but upon the oath of loyalty to a constitutional monarch.

### Council polls and PR

From Professor Ivor Gowan

Sir, I am surprised that little has been said by either side in the present controversy over the future of local government about the advantages that might accrue from the introduction of proportional representation into the local electoral system.

The recent round of elections has demonstrated that "first past the post" allows extremists to gain power to a greater extent than is likely at the national level. Liverpool is a good example where the political consequences of Labour's gain of seats bears little relation to the change of votes cast for each party.

Current Government policy in the local government field reflects widespread public concern about the way in which some counties and districts are run. The appropriate ministers have quite legitimately attempted to influence policy and to induce restraint by their handling of the taxpayers' contribution to local finance by way of Exchequer grants.

But it is at least questionable whether the proposed rate-capping Bill and the abolition of the GLC and metropolitan counties will not entail more long-term disadvantages than short-term gains.

In the current climate of uncertainty and division, even on the Government side, it is not too late for all concerned to consider

### Civil Service pay claim

From Mr John Coleman

Sir, In a civilized society it is really unacceptable for public servants to go on strike - at least for more pay.

I believe the Government would be wise to index-link the wages and salaries of essential public servants: doctors, nurses, schoolteachers, firemen, etc. This would not be contrary to monetarist policies, indeed it would reinforce them and create additional control over wage increases in the private sector.

If I own a factory those working within it are directly my employees. The fireman who comes when my factory is on fire is indirectly my employee. I want to be absolutely sure he will arrive when I need him and if I know his wages will rise when I increase the wages of my direct employees, I will take into account the tax I pay for him in my

### Mr Botha's visit

From the Director General of the Africa Centre

Sir, Your comment (leading article, May 8) on Prime Minister Botha's invitation to Downing Street poses many questions. For example, is it really open to "philosophical dispute without end" that a system discriminating on the basis of the colour of a man's skin is possibly no worse than one that discriminates on the basis of opinions and beliefs?

There can at least be a semblance of intellectual justification for opposing a person's ideas - governments and individuals to some degree restrict the individual's freedom on this basis all the time - but to legislate against someone and to deny him fundamental liberties because one dislikes his hue is unjust, unreasonable and inhuman.

Similarly your editorial wonders whether there are rational grounds for condemning Mr Botha's forthcoming visit unless one is dedicated to "the total overthrow of the system" in South Africa rather than to its "evolution". You imply that only extremists could take such a view, but I doubt if any decent person could hold back from utter condemnation of a system based on discrimination by pigmentation and which to date has supplied no evidence of a serious commitment towards eventual equality of the races.

The invitation to Mr Botha thus gives the impression that Downing Street does not regard colour differences as any worse a basis for forming a national policy than any other, and (b) sees genuine progress within South Africa towards racial equality.

Though it is a standard argument

### Checks and balances for Ireland

It is surely betrayal that begets violence, coupled with a certain knowledge that your democratic and constitutional voice, will not be heard. This is the part Peter Jay would now compel Ulster Unionists to play. He would repeat those mistakes and land us all with further decades of violence.

Surely what we have learned is the opposite of what Peter Jay suggests - that somehow a Constitution for Northern Ireland must be prepared that will allow both nationalities the right of adherence to their respective nation, so much so that they no longer feel obliged to compel the "other" side to forswear anything. Perhaps this means that there should be two sets of matching institutions, one loyalist and one republican, the so-called consociational approach.

Peter Jay portrays the Ulster Protestants as the sole villains of the piece. He forgets that Westminster in the 1920s, almost unbelievably, failed miserably to provide any checks and balances to the Stormont system at all. Ulster issues could not be debated at Westminster; what occurred for 50 years at Stormont was done with the deliberate connivance of successive British governments.

What we learn from this is that any permanent settlement must contain checks and balances to prevent the majority - any majority - from repeating those unhealthy practices.

Yours faithfully,  
J. E. HAMILTON,  
Avonmore,  
West Glen Road,  
Kilmacolm,  
Renfrewshire,  
May 9.

alternative policies. In this context, the introduction of PR into local government merits serious consideration.

The councils elected under this system would be far more representative of the communities they serve. There would be far less chance of frequent disruptive changes of control and direction. The need of the parties to conciliate and negotiate could well eliminate some of the waste and extravagance that is now apparent in some authorities.

In other words, councillors, with very few exceptions groups in power, would themselves exercise the controls that are now carried out by central departments.

In my opinion a primary objective of any reform should be to encourage a sense of responsibility and self-discipline in local affairs. The tendency of the present legislation is to give more power to the central departments - a trend which in turn will run counter to the Government's objective of reducing the size of the Civil Service.

The problems of change are complex, but I hope that official attitudes are not so rigid that they cannot consider an alternative on the lines that I have set out.

Yours faithfully,  
IVOR GOWAN,  
University College of Wales,  
Department of Political Science,  
Llandinam Building,  
Aberystwyth.

### Civil Service pay claim

overall wages bill. My other employees will have their wages kept down a bit to allow for this.

This in effect takes the question of how much public employees are actually paid outside government and into the private sector, the wealth-creating sector, who probably know best what can be afforded.

The same must be true of school teachers who, in the longer run, should be just as essential to my business. On the supply side I am not concerned with the number of people who want to be teachers but about the numbers who are fit to be teachers.

Surely this must be sound monetarist policy and in line with the market economy.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN COLEMAN,  
The Nook,  
Hook Village,  
Warrash,  
Nr Southampton, Hampshire.

to bring in abuses of human rights in other countries whenever South Africa is debated (in your case Tanzania and the Soviet Union) this only blurs the relatively simple issue with which world leaders are faced when considering contact with Mr Botha.

He is the apostle of institutionalized racial discrimination, inviting him on to the world stage in the full glare of international publicity, when one has the option not to do so, puts him on the same level as other world leaders, some of whom the British Government admires and some of whom it deplores but none of whom have enshrined in their system the abasement of the national majority simply because they are darker skinned.

Yours sincerely,  
ALASTAIR NIVEN,  
Director General,  
Africa Centre,  
38 King Street, WC2.  
May 8.

### Flourishing elms

From Mr J. P. C. Sankey-Barker

Sir, Welcome as is any news of extensive elm survival, I fear that the specimens of *Ulmus glabra* your correspondent (May 7) saw on his recent visit to the Black Mountains are but a remnant of what once existed. Thousands of dead wych elm (doubtless mainly *glabra*) have already been removed from those mountain valleys. Even in the Llanthony valley, most of the mountain slopes above the Abbey have perished, while the adjoining Gwynne-fawr valley is still full of dead elms. Though *glabra* stools continue to sprout suckers, one notes that all too many promising saplings eventually succumb.

## Scoring points in the Olympics

From Dom David Morland, OSB

Sir, The Soviet Union would be better advised to prove the superiority of the Communist system to American capitalism by sending their athletes to Los Angeles and winning medals rather than by staying away.

After all if ever there was a regime where a boycott might have been justified, it was that of Hitler's Germany and yet in the Berlin Olympics of 1936 the refutation of the myth of white Aryan supremacy was far more effectively achieved by Jesse Owens's victories than by any refusal to attend.

Yours etc,  
DAVID MORLAND,  
Gilling Castle,  
Gilling East,  
Airedale,  
May 11

From Mr John Heller

Sir, At the risk of appearing to take an over-simplistic view of the matter, might I ask what is the dramatic change in the Soviet stance in Afghanistan over the past four years which makes the Americans so keen to compete in Los Angeles in 1984 against Russian athletes whom they shunned in Moscow in 1980?

Should we not rather take some comfort from the fact that the absence of heavily state-subsidized athletes from the Eastern bloc countries might turn the Olympics back closer to their genuine amateur ideals and origins?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HELLER,  
11 Childs Street, SW5.  
May 11.

From Mrs E. D. Horsfall

Sir, The naive and aggrieved astonishment which has greeted the decision by the Soviet Union to withdraw from the Olympic Games is remarkable. What other course could they pursue with dignity?

They are vilified and denigrated round the clock by the Americans, their accredited representative to the games was refused entry to the USA three months ago and now their athletes are being threatened in person by sections of the public. No country could subject its young people to such an ordeal; they could not give of their best - not even the stoical and disciplined Russians!

This is no quid pro quo for 1980, but a measured decision and one, maybe, that will throw some cold water on transatlantic hysteria in the future. It is said that even a worm will turn eventually; one should not expect more endurance from a bear!

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
BETTY HORSFALL,  
Milling House,  
Avilburton,  
Lydney,  
Gloucestershire,  
May 9.

From Mr H. Sabath

Sir, Your Sports Correspondent, Mr David Miller, concludes his article on the Russian withdrawal from the Olympic games (May 9) with the statement that "it makes the action of the British team in 1980 of refusing to be politically manoeuvred that much more creditable".

Nothing of the sort: what it makes creditable is the attitude of the British Government, which recommended withdrawal but left it to the conscience of individual athletes to make the final decision. As a result many participated, some not.

May I suggest that if the Soviet Government allowed the same freedom of action to Russian athletes the present conflict would be speedily settled.

But, of course, the British Government did not fear that athletes would abscond. . . .

Yours sincerely,  
H. SABATH,  
41 Meadow, NW11.  
May 9.

### Fair price for books

From Mr M. F. M. Evans

Sir, If the operation of the net book agreement (NBA) is to be discussed, let it be the NBA that exists, not the NBA of myth.

Mr Vernon (May 9) misleads by implication. The NBA allows, but does not compel, publishers to fix a price below which a book may not be sold. It does not fix the discount allowed to booksellers; they are free to negotiate the best purchase price they can get.

There are no such things as "net terms" of discount. The book may then be sold at any price equal to or greater than the net price.

The objective of the NBA is to prevent the strong competing with the weak by cutting prices. But the state of the trade may lead one to doubt that it is what is required to enable small bookshops to survive.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN F. MARIX EVANS,  
Blakes,  
Much Hadham,  
Hertfordshire,  
May 9.

Though both varieties of the wych elm, the prevalent species in these parts, are reputed to be more disease-resistant than *campestris*, most of those hereabouts have been killed. Among the more regrettable consequences of this has been the grave threat (as elsewhere) to the survival of the White-letter Hairstreak. This butterfly, first noted near Crickhowell circa 1938, and latterly well established over much of Breconshire, has already become extremely scarce.

I am, yours faithfully,  
J. P. C. SANKEY-BARKER,  
Plas Llangatock,  
Crickhowell,  
Powys,  
May 8.







# Gatwick express

Probably the most annoying aspect of air travel, aside from the cost, is the extra time spent getting to and from the airport: a longer time, on many short-haul routes, than the flight itself. From today the British Railways Authority and British Rail are doing their best to sweeten the pill with the inauguration of the Gatwick Express.

The Gatwick Express shaves up to 12 minutes off the previous travel time between Victoria station and Gatwick airport, a time saving of 20 per cent. The new non-stop service takes 30 minutes and operates at 15 minute intervals throughout the day. (Night services will continue hourly, at the previous speeds, between midnight and 0530.)

There is more to the new service than speed and convenience, however. British Rail likes to think that it has created a package that will "complement the style, luxury and convenience of the travel" and "the world's fifth busiest international airport, is the only one in this country where the railway station has been built as an integral part of its facilities. From today the "integration" of the passenger will begin at Victoria.

Platforms 13 and 14 will serve the Gatwick Express

A faster and more comfortable non-stop rail service opens today between London's Victoria Station and Gatwick Airport.

exclusively, and nearby will be a special rail/air ticket office separate from those used by the majority of Victoria's 150,000 passengers daily, with a separate waiting lounge for Gatwick passengers.

The new trains themselves, which will travel at speeds up to 90mph, comprise an electric locomotive hauling seven second class passenger coaches and one first class plus a baggage van. Seats total 392 second class and 41 first class per train.

The rolling stock has been "kitted out" in a distinctive "livery" of dark and light grey, red and white, with the air traveller in mind, carriage doors have been made extra wide, interior sliding doors are automatic and, in addition to the baggage car, what British Rail describes as "an extravagance of luggage space" has been built in overhead and between the seats.

Plenty of leg-room (and reclining seats in first class), multi-lingual information signs including Chinese, a public address system, and special rail staff including hostesses, further the impression of pampered exclusivity. Ticket checks will be carried out on the train to spare Gatwick Passengers the queues and blockages at other platforms.

British Rail carries about two fifths of Gatwick's 12 million air-line passengers annually. By the 1990s, when the second terminal is fully operational, the total is expected to double. The airport has processed as many as 70,000 passengers in one day, 30,000 of them travelling by train.

Unsurprisingly, the recently completed £11m modernization at the airport and station has taken account of these figures.

The concourse is built over the six station platforms; its eight-window ticket office serves any British Rail station. A travel centre next door offers, in addition to its comprehensive rail information service, bookings for train journeys virtually anywhere in Europe, including sleeping car, Motorail, Sealink car and passenger ferries, and the Hoverspeed cross-channel service. There are more than 150 check-in desks. (Incoming passengers can put to good use

the time spent waiting for their baggage from the plane: rail tickets are on sale at a special desk.)

For the time being, British Caledonian passengers will have an edge on the others: they will be able to check their heavier luggage in at Victoria, whence it will travel direct to the aircraft via the luggage van on the train.

The service is hoped to be extended to all Gatwick passengers in due course.

Departing and arriving passengers are well catered for. Once past security and passport checks, international passengers are offered a 24-hour service at buffet, bar and bookstall, as well

as the usual duty-free shopping. In-bound passengers, once through one of the 20 immigration desks, can wait comfortably in a "buffer lounge" (with pay phones and courtesy phones for car-hire and hotel bookings).

The usual banks, bookshop, Post Office and information desks are open on the main concourse level in the terminal, but catering facilities have been separated to relieve congestion in the check-in area. Above the concourse on the third floor are two buffets and bars, a pantry that sells salads and sandwiches, a 24-hour fast food unit and a restaurant.

Gatwick's facilities for disabled passengers have earned

awards from the British Tourist Authority and the Central Council for the Disabled. A leaflet published by the British Airports Authority, *Who Looks After You at Gatwick Airport?*, spells out those facilities with diagrams and minimum access measurements.

The leaflet also maps the locations of lifts and toilets for disabled passengers, shows ramp gradients, and explains such special facilities as telephones at wheelchair-level and an inductive loop system to help people with hearing aids hear announcements.

The Gatwick Express mirrors

the Gatwick Express will

this pride in facilities for the disabled, in the availability of wheelchairs and luggage trolleys and in the wider doors and gangways on the trains.

With its 67 second class coaches, 10 first class and 10 luggage vans, the Gatwick Express is a feature of "Operation New Look", a £120m track and signalling scheme for the London-Brighton line. When the project is completed, the whole of the line will be controlled by two computer-operated, electronically controlled centres at Clapham Junction and at Three Bridges.

then be "the fastest, most reliable and direct city centre to airport connection in the country", according to British Rail.

There is no supplementary charge for the service. Second class fares between London Victoria and Gatwick are £3.30 adult single, £6.60 return; children under five travel free, or at half fare up to 15 years. First class fares are 50 per cent more than second class. Through tickets to Gatwick can be bought at any London Underground station, at the normal Victoria-Gatwick fare plus the tube fare to Victoria.

Tony Samstag

## Fast, frequent and comfortable

All over the world greater emphasis is being put these days on good high-speed surface links between airports and the cities they serve. This is partly no doubt because of environmental reasons new airports tend to be sited ever farther from centres of population. But no doubt too it owes something to the realization what a nonsense it is, as the latest jet airliners steadily improve the speed and quality of the flight, that so much of the total journey time can be taken up by slow and inefficient land connections at either end.

For 40 years Gatwick has been struggling to establish itself as a major international airport while suffering from the twin drawbacks of a poor geographical position - 28 miles from London compared with 15 to Heathrow and on the opposite side of the capital from the other main centres of population in the Midlands, west and north - and poor land connections.

Travelling by road between Gatwick and central London has meant struggling through a throng of suburban shopping centres with pedestrian crossings, traffic lights and traffic jams for much of the day, while travelling from the northern Home Counties that provide much of its catchment area has until recently been even more of a nightmare.

Travelling by rail has been much better, but still, until today, far short of what has come to be expected by international travellers elsewhere.

Gatwick was in fact the first airport anywhere in the world to have its own railway station. But from the time 1935 it has merely been one of a string along the London-Brighton line, using much the same rolling stock terminals, and timetables as the other stopping and commuter services of one of Britain's busiest railways.

That in the face of these obstacles Gatwick has succeeded in establishing itself as Britain's second international airport and the world's fifth owes much to its sheer attractiveness and efficiency as an airport as well as the steady growth in international traffic through London.

### High-grade and air-conditioned

From today however, Gatwick's inherent attractiveness as an airport will be greatly enhanced by a surface connection of like quality. The new Gatwick Express - fast, frequent, and comfortable - will provide the kind of surface connection it would have had to start with were these things being done now.

Though not completely new, the trains are high-grade air-conditioned inter-city stock newly refurbished, with special attention to baggage storage on the train, and ease of access and egress. The trains will run every 15 minutes throughout the day and much of the night. And as a result of a huge modernization by British Rail in track and signalling on the Brighton Line, the interruptions and delays suffered by travellers should be eliminated.

Without this new investment the railways could hardly have hoped to hold on to their third share of Gatwick traffic as the airport continues to expand, especially when completion of

London's M25 orbital motorway will greatly improve road access from London and the north in two years' time.

Now, the four million passengers out of the airport's annual total of 12 to 13 million currently reach Gatwick by rail are expected to rise to about eight million out of 23 million by the 1990s when Gatwick's second terminal will be open. For British Rail, that means additional revenue of around £25m at 1984 prices by the mid-1990s.

### An even better passenger service

For that reason there was much talk of privatizing the route two or three years ago, and handing over terminals and trains to a private sector operator who it was thought would put in extra capital investment and marketing and business skills to make it even better than the service passengers will begin to enjoy today.

Although the Government's zeal for privatization of public assets has not faded, this particular project seems to have fallen dormant, and the challenge is clearly open for BR to see how well it can do itself in order to drive away permanently the spectre of what the rail unions at any rate (rail management these days is not so dogmatic) see as the "Balkanization" of British Rail.

Today's inauguration is the second phase of a three-part programme to upgrade Gatwick's rail connection, of which the final part will perhaps not be seen for a further two years.

The first was the opening by the then BR chairman Sir Peter Parker of the new Gatwick airport station, built at a cost of £11m, in 1981. This keys in the rail to the air terminal at the Gatwick end so conveniently and closely that it is only 100 metres from the airport Customs to the London train.

The second - to be attended by Sir Peter's successor Mr Bob Reid today - is the new link railway between Gatwick and Victoria; and the third is a new terminal at Victoria itself.

For the present there is no more than a tantalizing glimpse of that for the air traveller in the form of a huge concrete raft just above ceiling height over the Victoria platforms from which the Gatwick trains arrive and depart.

This raft is also the bottom floor of the new Victoria Plaza commercial development carried out at a cost of around £40m by property developers Greycoat Estates.

For the present it is no more than a shell, but the scheme is to fit it out over the next two years, at a cost of £5m-£10m, as a high quality airport concourse, linked by lifts and escalators to the station below and with direct road access for passengers arriving by car and coach.

British Rail is currently searching for a private sector partner to develop and operate the new terminal, which it expects to do in time for completion by about 1986.

When that happens, the Gatwick experience will be further extended in a happy conjunction of public and private enterprise

Michael Bailey  
Transport Editor

Victoria

Battersea Park

Clapham Jct.

Wandsworth Common

Batham

Streatham Common

Norbury

Thornton Heath

Selhurst

East Croydon

South Croydon

Purley Oaks

Purley

Coussdon South

Merstham

Redhill

Horley

Gatwick

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### GATWICK EXPRESS

Five storeys high, the 'airspace' rooftop that cost £45m



The Victoria Plaza roof which is almost ready to be unveiled.

## Going through Victoria's roof

Once it played host to kings and the occasional queen travelling to Bognor or Brighton to take the sea air. But today, rising from its Victorian rafters, Victoria station is playing host to a new breed of aristocrats—the property developers.

Depending on your point of view Victoria station's majestic but outdated canopy is being transformed into what some people are describing as London's most exciting office building. Or, in fact, two office buildings covering more than 300,000 sq ft of commercial space on five storeys above the station.

While the concept of developing "air space" above a station may be thought of by the average Londoner as a new concept imported from north America, British Rail has been developing the phenomenon for the past decade. The transport giant realized a long time ago that if it wanted new station facilities it had better find someone else to pay for them—preferably in the private sector. Perhaps the first of these joint development schemes was Birmingham's New Street station where the private sector developed the Bull Ring shop-

ping centre and accompanying offices. In London examples abound like Euston and Blackfriars. And of course the long-awaited Liverpool Street redevelopment where BR will receive a new station in exchange for letting property developers erect around 1m sq ft of office space.

As part of the improved Victoria-Gatwick rail-air link, two major office buildings are in the process of being constructed, although the first, Victoria Plaza, is almost ready to be unveiled.

It is an ambitious project undertaken by Greycoat London Estates—a joint development company made up of Greycoat City Offices and Sir Robert McAlpine. With 200,000 sq ft of net lettable office space the scheme features no fewer than three arias and will be built at a cost of £45m. Funding is being provided by Norwich Union.

The scheme has caused quite a stir in the capital's property market. Victoria is not regarded as one of London's prime office locations. It is too far from Mayfair and St James's to be thought of as West End and is even off-pitch from the so-called "oil-alley" of Victoria Street.

But naturally one of the development partners Mr Geoffrey Wilson of Greycoat City Offices is extremely confident that the building will be let. Although completed, official marketing of Victoria Plaza does not begin until next month but Mr Wilson reports that there has been considerable interest among potential tenants.

He describes the building as an office block of the 1990s employing many forms of advanced technology to make it as energy efficient as possible. Both Mr Wilson and the joint letting agents Jones Lang Wootton and Teacher Marks are coy about the asking rent but it is understood they are seeking rents of more than £20 a sq ft.

In exchange for development rights Greycoat London Estates is building the shell of the new £17m rail-air terminal which BR realized some time ago that it could not afford to fund itself. However, BR will still have to pay for the fitting-out of the terminal which is expected to allow air passengers to check their baggage in at Victoria and then not see it again until they

get off the plane at their final destination.

Further up the street—between Eccleston and Elizabeth Bridges—outline planning permission has been granted for a further office building. Like its neighbour, Victoria Plaza, this will be on five floors and developed by the same group.

Consisting of around 330,000 sq ft of offices and 12,000 sq ft of shopping space this phase is made up of two interlinked buildings. Proposals include a covered walkway through the site, a covered bus station, improvements to the station concourse and an archive library for Westminster Council. Work on the development could start by the end of the year and take up to three years, although funding has not yet been finalized.

While architects and purists may mourn the passing of the station's impressive Victorian arches, travellers probably will not. Any development above a station has many advantages to the office user, not least its convenience for commuting staff who will simply be able to jump out of their train and into a lift.

Baron Phillips

From the days in the 1960s when the airline industry dismissed it as a "bucket-and-spade airport" specializing in package holiday and other charter flights, Gatwick is now fully accepted as one of the world's major facilities, with 40 airlines flying regular scheduled services to almost all parts of the world.

In addition, there are 30 charter airlines which use it, while some 112,000 tonnes of freight passes each year through its cargo centre, which has a capacity of double that amount.

The growth of Gatwick in both size and stature has occurred for two main reasons. First, the British Airports Authority, which operates it with Heathrow, Stansted, to the north-east of London, and four airports in Scotland, has consistently over the years applied a policy of investment and expansion at Gatwick.

Such a policy was a considerable act of faith against the background of a severe economic depression which sent the airline industry plunging £1.5bn into the red during the 1980/81 financial year, and the fact that airlines resisted vigorously all attempts to transfer them from Heathrow, one of the great international aviation crossroads, and where many of them have expensive fixed bases.

Second, the Government ruled that all new foreign airlines beginning operations into London have to go to Gatwick, rather than to Heathrow, where the limit of 375,000 aircraft movements a year has almost been reached.

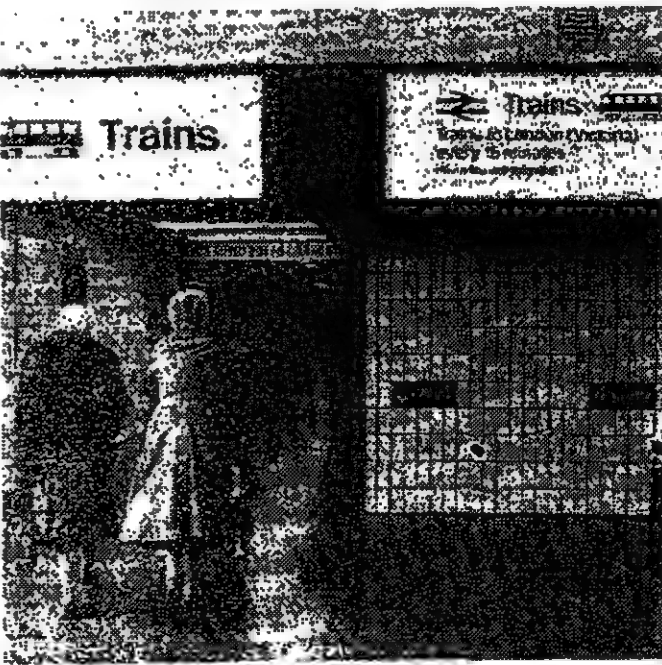
Gatwick, the original ugly duckling among airports, has thus received two considerable pushes in its metamorphosis to a swan so that in the most recent 12-month period for which the BAA has figures, it dealt with 12.0m passengers, an increase of 13.1 per cent on the previous 12 months, and 135,600 aircraft movements, an increase of 2.5 per cent, reflecting the trend for more passengers to arrive and depart in larger airliners.

The annual passenger figures mentioned above indicate that the airport is rapidly approaching its current limit of 16 million. There are already signs of congestion at peak periods, and some airlines have moved some of their flights to Stansted this summer, having been unable to obtain the take-off times which they wanted from the Gatwick scheduling committee.

But the airports authority identified this build-up years ago, as a result of which a new terminal is under construction with a completion date of summer 1987, at which time it will add a further 9m capacity to give Gatwick the ability to handle 25 million passengers a year.

At that stage the potential for further expansion will be virtually exhausted, and attention will focus on whatever solution the Government has

## How the ugly duckling changed its feathers



Easy access for pushing luggage and clear signs at Gatwick for the train to Victoria.

chosen to ease the whole problem of air traffic through the south-east of England for the future—be it a fifth terminal at Heathrow on the site of the present sludge works at the western end of that airport, the expansion of Stansted to take a further 15 million passengers a year, or a combination of both options.

The north terminal at Gatwick was sanctioned by a planning consent in November, 1982, after a lengthy public inquiry, and at the time of writing the majority of works to protect the environment, including the raising of earth mounds up to 13 metres high, had been completed. The River Mole had been diverted, and the foundations were going in. Out of the total cost of £200m, some £50m worth of work had been committed, and by the end of this year it is expected that £20m of this will have been spent.

Landscaping around the terminal has been designed to continue the "airport in the country" theme, of which the airports authority is proud, and the aircraft stands are being positioned so that the airlines using them will make the least possible noise impact on local communities. The building will have three main levels. On the upper level, the departures hall will have 84 check-in desks, and an automated system to carry passengers' luggage to their flights.

New roads will link the north terminal to the M25 and A23, and it will be joined to the main line railway station by a driverless "people mover" of a similar type to that which runs to the circular satellite, opened in April, 1983—and which, in its first 12 months of operation, was used by 4 million passengers.

While the north terminal will take the pressure from the

passenger-handling sector of Gatwick, the airport's real limiting factor—its single runway—will remain. The BAA has given an undertaking that it will not build a second runway in the foreseeable future, and the land which was originally earmarked for this purpose has, in recent years, been built over for the cargo terminal.

Using the most up-to-date technical aids (a new control tower is due to enter use in early June), and with a highly professional air traffic control operation, the existing runway could handle up to 160,000 movements a year. But even with the present 135,000 movements, there are periods of congestion when airlines queue to take-off or land, and acute problems are presented to those whose task it is to make Gatwick work smoothly when the runway has to be serviced, or an aircraft blocks it.

It is to ameliorate the impact of these last two cases that work on the expansion of the existing parallel taxiway into a runway which can be used in emergencies has recently started.

The taxiway is to be extended to 2,500 metres in length and doubled in width to 45 metres, making it good enough for landings by all types of airliners, and for most take-offs by European flights—heavy, long-distance aircraft will have to take-off light and call for additional fuel elsewhere on their route. The runway will be lit, but not instrumented, and the airports authority is at pains to point out that it will not be a second runway by stealth. It is, in any case, too close, at only 100 metres, to the main runway for the two to be used at the same time.

Of the 69 aircraft stands at Gatwick today, 49 of them can be used by wide-bodied aircraft, such as the DC-10s of British Caledonian, the Lockheed Tri-Stars of Delta, and the Boeing 747s of the Chinese national airline CAAC. On peak days, the airport handles more than 600 flights in and out, and its existing single terminal copes with up to 3,500 passengers an hour in each direction, about 40 per cent of whom arrive at and leave the airport by rail. For those coming by road, there are 13,000 long and short-term parking spaces within the airport boundary.

Arthur Reed

## Getting a warm welcome at Gatwick

The work on upgrading the existing facilities at Gatwick goes on constantly. Extensive work on the main terminal has recently been completed, and glass walls are now being installed in the central pier, built for wide-bodied airliners, to lighten the gloomy aspect which greets passengers as they are carried towards their flights on moving walkways. Four aircraft stands are being added.

The new satellite has improved the lot of the passenger considerably, with its modern design, areas of glass, the bright decor. After stepping from the driverless train, travellers are led to their flights by signs in coloured neon, the

warmer colours being used on the cold north side, and colder colours on the warmer south. Shops, restaurants, and duty free are in the centre of the building, and are surrounded by a pavement designed to give a street atmosphere, with public telephones, seats and lamp standards.

The airport authority has also worked on modernising the south pier, the oldest at Gatwick, having been built in the 1960s. It has installed air jetties, through which passengers can walk directly on the the aircraft, at all eight stands so that they can now serve airlines of the modern generation.

Victoria  
come,  
on time

CATCH THE



Despite stress, apoplexy, confusion and frustration, Robin Young finds other ways to ease the journey

## Victoria here I come, and on time, too

There are statistics to show that the incidence of stress symptoms, apoplexy and heart failure is higher at airports than anywhere else on earth, even including railway stations. There are few people left who harbour the illusion that travel is fun. No matter how exciting the destination, we nowadays realize that getting there is likely to be damned hard work, taxing the physique, paying the temper and ultimately destroying human dignity.

The one cardinal rule for surviving the *miles*, the confusion, the frustrating queues, the uncertainty of what to do or where to go next is, of course, always to have plenty of time in hand. Travel at the earliest opportunity, not the latest. Take the train two (or three) ahead of the one you would have first thought of, and you will stay comfortably ahead of the crowd stampeding to get where you have just been.

The general tendency is to leave things till late on the assumption that railway stations and airports are unpleasant places to be. But it is really being late, rushed and panicky that contributes most to making them so. Have time to look around you, and to study how they work, and transport facilities become much more sympathetic.

Victoria itself has surely the smartest address of all the London rail termini. Comfortably ensconced between Belgrave, Piccadilly and Westminster, it certainly cannot be accused of having dragged the area down. From the point of view of surrounding amenities and attractions it is the best served of all London stations.

Intending travellers who had planned their trips well in advance could, for example, conveniently eat in some of the best restaurants in London before quitting the capital. Ebury Street offers, within a short stroll of the station, Ken Lo's cool and tasteful Memories of China for those inclined to

spice their appetite for travel with something deliciously oriental; Mijanou, for those who like something classy in the French style; and Dulcinea a resolutely appointed and under-appreciated Spanish restaurant with one of the most extraordinary wine lists in London. Another option is Belgravia's neighbourhood cafe, Estons in Elizabeth Street, where a meal of deep-fried mushrooms, calves liver and homemade cheese cake will fortify travellers admirably for the trials ahead. Or for a foretaste of Italy try Gran Paradiso down Wilton Road.

Bear in mind that for those with time to spare St. James's Park, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Cathedral and Abbey, and the Tate Gallery (with another excellent restaurant for lunch) are all within walking distance, and that those travelling through Victoria can attend a theatre within yards of their train. Book far enough ahead and it could be Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Starlight Express* at the Apollo Victoria. Otherwise it would have to be the new show at the Victoria Palace.

### A welcome bed for new arrivals

Setting out well fed is essential to the art of travelling comfortably, and if it means breakfast that can be had at small restaurants outside the station, such as Grandma Lee's, or, more substantially, in the imposing Grosvenor Hotel which has direct access to the station and which can also offer late night arrivals a welcoming bed and bath at £39 a single or £23 each in a double, so much the better.

None of the forgoing recommendations is intended to scorn the efforts of Travellers' Fare, but necessarily the on-station catering facilities do aim particularly at providing for

those in a hurry, which the well-advised traveller is not. Still, for those with no time to look elsewhere there are 10 bars and buffets about the station, the first opening at 6.30 am and the last closing at 11 pm. Most useful of all, perhaps, is the Casey Jones fast hamburger bar which, experimentally at least, is opening during the summer from 5 am until two the following morning.

From six in the morning until nine at night Gatwick has its own ticket office, beside platforms 15 to 19. At other times, when there are unlikely to be queues, tickets come from the main windows. A rarity at inner-city railway stations these days, the Gatwick ticket office provides eight seats in a waiting room, with an indicator announcing the next departure.

The left luggage office is close at hand: there are lockers in the middle of the station for those travelling when it is closed.

Before leaving Victoria the daytime traveller can get a shoe-shine (70p); wash and brush-up and shave (30p); confirm or revise flight arrangements with British Airways or British Caledonian; buy fresh fruit or flowers; get passport photos from a machine; change money (but banks give better rates than the bureaux de change); and buy books, newspapers or magazines from W. H. Smith.

On arrival at Gatwick, everything is clearly posted for those who have time to look around. It is those who are racing against time who, sadly,

are almost predestined to lose their way.

Check baggage in and be rid of it as soon as you can. Decide now at what time you will yourself go through the controls which take you airside. If you have nothing else to do, or if seat allocation is to be at the departure gate or on a first-come-first-served basis, it is as well to go through straight away.

But if you want to eat at Gatwick, there is more choice landside. Catering is concentrated on the third floor of the terminal building, one floor above the main concourse. The Panorama Grill restaurant opens for breakfast at 6.30am and runs through lunch, afternoon tea and dinner until 10pm. The Gatwick Pantry also has waitress service, but serves lighter meals - freshly toasted sandwiches, home-made soup, pasta dishes, and their own

freshly baked baguettes. In summer it is open from six in the morning till eight at night.

One of the self-service buffets, the London Pride, is open 24 hours a day, with fare changing to suit the time. Another, the Speedwell, supplements it from 7am to 7pm in summer, serving the same selection.

Do not expect, however, to be able to use these facilities without queuing. You may be lucky, but at peak times all are fully stretched. Hence the wisdom of eating before leaving London if possible.

Opportunities for refreshment are not exhausted once you go airside. There is a 24-hour buffet in the department lounge, but its selection is more limited than those outside.

Drinkers, though, have some advantage being airside, where the bar is always open. Lan-

side, ordinary pub licensing hours have to be observed. You should, in any case, be airside soon enough to consider carefully whether you want to buy duty-free goods.

The target saving in the duty free shops liquor and tobacco is about 40 per cent of the retail price in Britain. Know your price comparisons, resist impulse purchases, but look around for anything a bit special which might be a treat. Single malt whiskies are particularly good value at present, but there is no reason to be toting table wine to France or sherry back to Spain.

These purchases settled, reclaim your seat in the departure lounge, within view of the announcement board, and calmly study the frenetic behaviour and harrowed expressions of those who have organized themselves less thoroughly than you. Do not, at this late stage, succumb to the temptation to rush to a telephone to ask a neighbour to check that you turned the gas off... or should you?

## Sandwiches by the thousand, plus a porter

Though it is a complicated accretion of buildings of different date, and even now partially a building site while development continues, Victoria Station has the habit of absorbing change with equanimity.

It has a worse reputation than it deserves. When opening the smart new London Tourist Board information centre at the station entrance, the then minister of tourism talked disparagingly of Victoria's "generally off-putting, shabby, dirty appearance". He said the place could do with a face-lift.

Life has been one long face-lift for Victoria, and the struggle to keep its aspect moderately pleasing is an unremitting one.

In 1978 an American offered to buy it for conversion into an antique market. It was regarded as a great joke at the time by those who thought that any such conversion would be superfluous, and said that most of the exhibits needed were on site already.

Railway stations do not have a good reputation, and Victoria's is little better than most. Yet 155,000 people, coming and going, plough through it every day with little complaint. Most, of course, come and go as quickly as possible and, not surprisingly, nothing is done to encourage travellers to stay the night.

Even so, many of the complaints of former years have now been acted upon. The shortage of trolleys, which was blamed on thefts, seems to have been allayed. British Rail confess that it is not because people have stopped stealing them. The lockers, long closed for fear of terrorist bombs, are now available, and seem adequately supervised. At most times of the day arrivals from Gatwick can even find railmen willing to serve as porters.

British Rail's workforce at Victoria, including those who work for Sealink, Travellers' Fare and the traffic police, is 1,100. The numbers employed at the station by ancillary services and shops are little more than a hundred. At night, when the Gatwick service is the only one to continue right through, the numbers about are few indeed.

Yet I found that if Victoria is rather eerily quiet and empty at dead of night, it is no longer depressing or frightening. On my nocturnal foray, railmen were patiently cleaning. There was a convivial good-night from an alert ticket collector. Inquiries were being courteously dealt with by the first-class ticket window.

There were both taxis and night buses standing outside ready to whisk me away, though of course the three Underground lines were now all closed.

Gatwick, by contrast, can be as busy at 2am as it is at 3pm. Busy in winter, the traffic doubles in summer and the numbers can only be accommodated by stretching the hours the airport is at work. Plans that may be making one trip out and back in winter are likely to be making three in summer. First departures are earlier, last arrivals later.

There are more than 70 concerns at work within Gatwick Airport. The total workforce is estimated to be 13,500. Even at the unearliest of hours there are hundreds of people about the place.

The caterers, for example, will have 30 or 40 at work as a minimum, some staffing the 24-hour buffets, and others hard at it in the production kitchens preparing for the morning rush. They make and fill no fewer than 25,000 sandwiches a week, and the aim is to have everything sold within about seven hours of its being made.

The duty free shops employ up to 350 staff in peak season. They stay open through the night because it is simpler to keep staff on duty than to transport them away as late as the shop could close and back as early as they would need to open.

The cleaners, too, are at work round the clock. 200 of them working in three eight hour shifts. It is the night shift, of course, who provide the deep clean because, simply, it is difficult pushing brooms and sweepers about the place when it is full of thousands of people.

RY

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Victoria to the airport concourse in 30 minutes. Try beating that in your car and the police could stop you leaving the country. Phone 01-200 0200 for details.







## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# Wages the only cloud on the inflation horizon

At this stage in any economic recovery, the British would normally be jostling each other into an inflationary scramble. This past week, the financial markets have shown how ready they are to distrust Mr Nigel Lawson's confident forecasts that inflation will go on slowly declining, and to believe instead in the lessons of 15 years' bitter experience.

Of course, no one really supposes that a government whose one claim to economic success is the conquest of inflation simply going to throw it away. But the argument being fought out in public in the United States neatly illustrates the issue in Britain too. Governments have to set their monetary targets according to guesses about the proportion of future expansion that will translate into growth, and the proportion that will waste itself in inflation. As we now plainly know, the Federal Reserve Board and the Reagan Administration disagree about this. This British Government too has to guess at the strength of inflationary pressures in setting its controls, and the markets are congenitally suspicious of optimism. Just the same, an inspection tour of the tell-tale indicators still reveals only one source of real domestic concern.

### Pouring oil on troubled waters

Apart from the vagaries of American government, which are giving sterling (along with other European currencies) a hard time, the international signals are set pretty fair. The oil markets are steady, even though world output is rising at an annual rate of nearly 4 per cent — a remarkable change from the last two economic recoveries. (Back in Britain, Mr Arthur Scargill is learning that economic recovery no longer confers infinite power on those engaged in energy production.) Commodity prices are rising, but only quite modestly by past experience — possibly because the changed pattern of production in developed countries, now more dependent on service industries, has dampened demand for industrial raw materials.

But history provides ample evidence of Britain's ability to make its own foul inflationary weather. So what are the signs at home? That favourite piece of forecasts' seaweed, the housing market, is still not too discouraging. House prices are actually rising more slowly than they did last year.

The borrowing bulge, it seems, is still squeezing its way out of the tax-advantaged housing market into finance for all kinds of consumer purchases. From the very beginning of this recovery, the borrowing boom spent itself heavily on imports; but that can hardly be taken as a measure of "overheating". To suggest that demand should be restrained to a rate that can be met by increasing British production implies that British consumers buy foreign only when home-produced goods are out of stock. This is what happens in Japan — but not, patently, in Britain.

The buying spree enjoyed by those consumers still in work, fed by rising real incomes these past three years, has not pushed up prices precisely because domestic manufacturers have been constrained by foreign competition. It may be

that a falling exchange rate will enable British firms to raise their prices again; but since the pound is not falling against any of its main competitors in Europe, the chances are comfortably slim.

The real danger area, as always, is the labour market. To interpret its goings-on, it is important to look back at the course of the recovery so far. It has been strongly argued that inflation has lain dormant because the recovery has been uniquely slow — or "steady and sustainable", as the Government likes to put it. Part of this, however, was statistical illusion: production figures tend to be revised upwards as time goes on, sometimes by as much as 5 per cent. Since growth calculations for the most recent period depend on the difference between a base figure which may have been revised upwards several times, and the first low estimate for the latest three months or so, they invariably underestimate recoveries and over-estimate recessions — until enough time has passed for all the figures to have been revised upwards by the statisticians.

So recent work by the Treasury suggests the recovery has not been uniquely gradual; but even statistical hindsight cannot much reduce the depth of the slump that began in 1979. It now appears that the economy has grown at its normal rather sluggish pace since 1981, but from a point uniquely far below the trend.

From this follow two quite different views about the labour market. The optimistic prognosis is that Britain has still a long way to go; indeed, that productivity improvements over the past three years have actually increased the headroom, before recovery begins to bump into the kind of obstructions and shortages that trigger a cost explosion.

### Wages follow profits — not the dole queue

The pessimistic view is that wage inflation was only reduced by the severity of the recession. The slump has left British industry even less able than usual to reexpand production; and so serious skill shortages are emerging dangerously early. On this prognosis, wage inflation is likely to pick up extremely fast.

But neither offers a very convincing explanation of wage behaviour these past three years. Settlements have, in fact, reflected company profitability rather more closely than employment trends. Wage inflation ceased to slow down as soon as profits improved; even though unemployment was still rising, and it has not changed much since, even though employment has begun to rise.

But this is only moderately encouraging news. While it suggests wages will not explode with further modest improvement in employment trends, it means the risk is ever-present. The Government's whole tax strategy is directed towards an improvement in business profitability. So far, private industry has managed to earn about half of the 6 per cent annual increase in settlements out of higher productivity; but will it resist the temptation to finance the next round out of profits instead?

Sarah Hogg  
Economics Editor

## Panel to rule on Francis shares

By Our City Staff

Robert Fleming, the merchant bank adviser to Mr David Abell's Suter, said yesterday that the two Swiss companies are believed to have bought at above-the-bid price. The shares bought on April 18 to increase the Suter stake in Francis to 29.9 per cent and later the same day to nearly 35 per cent are thought to have come from the Swiss companies. But Mr Ramsay pointed out that Leonard Brothers, the merchant bank to Francis, was also buying and may have bought some of the Swiss shares itself.

Suter will write to Francis shareholders before Wednesday's closing date for the bid which has been raised once but which Suter has now declared final. The letter will tell

shareholders that they "are staying with a company going backwards in real terms". Francis has made an impressive £2.2m profit, forecast, but Suter says that Francis would have to make more than £3m to beat the previous record in 1979 in real terms.

Suter maintains that it is offering Francis shareholders the chance to make a "significant increase in capital". But the share price has remained at around 128p, well above the 125p offer value. However, Francis' shares go ex-dividend today which could cause some weakness in the price.

Under the takeover rules Suter can now only extend its offer by another week from next Friday.

### AMERICAN NOTEBOOK

## Reagan gets the money message

The collapse of the bond markets has activated serious fears in the White House that the Federal Reserve's inability to prevent the recent sharp rise in interest rates will gravely weaken the President's re-election chances.

Since the middle of January, bond futures have fallen from 71 to 61 and the Treasury's long bond has fallen from 102 to 89.

Fears on Friday of financial difficulties at Continental Illinois Bank (Number eight in the US) brought a plunge in bond futures and a stock market sell-off.

Some analysts are forecasting a 100 point drop in the Dow Jones industrial average, to bring stock prices in line with the drop in bonds.

Advice to the President from a prominent New York republican with direct access to the Administration's whole future is threatened by the failure of the Federal Reserve to provide sufficient funds to feed the strong growth of credit demand.

Recent rises in the prime rate to 12½ per cent and in the discount rate to 9 per cent, followed by a renewed plunge in bonds during the last two weeks, have evidently convinced the Administration that there must be a major change in Fed policy.

Market interest rates are now close to where they were in mid-1982 when the Fed instituted the explosive growth of money that led to the great bond and stock rally of 1982-83, when bond futures rose 36 per cent and stocks rose 70 per cent.

The long bond yield has risen 171 basis points since early January; 90-day T-Bills have risen 105 basis points and 90-day certificates of deposit 120 basis points.

While the current economic news suggests the economy will at worst grow more slowly in the second quarter, the Administration is hypersensitive to the level of interest rates.

The Secretary of the Treasury, Mr Donald Regan, expressed these fears in his

address to the National Conference of State Legislators on Friday when he said: "Our growth is moderating and our inflation remains low. There is no sign of a widespread surge in inflationary pressures. We have continually asked the Federal Reserve to supply enough money to accommodate non-inflationary growth. We hope they will do so."

The argument that has been put to the president is that the appropriate rate of money growth is not unchanging but varies with the economic conditions.

In today's conditions, the President has been told, there is still a high level of unemployment and a high ratio of unused productive capacity.

In such circumstances it is desirable that the rate of money growth should be kept up, otherwise the rate of growth of the economy will be unnecessarily reduced and interest rates unnecessarily elevated.

Thus, Mr Regan's public criticisms of the Federal Re-

# EEC ministers unite on need for debt accord at summit

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

The agenda for the London economic summit next month has been largely determined by a series of international meetings over the weekend. At Rambouillet, outside Paris, Mr Nigel Lawson and other EEC finance ministers agreed that the problems of international debt should be on the summit agenda, during informal talks devoted to establishing an agreed European position ahead of the summit. Meanwhile, a series of major trade initiatives emerged from meetings of EEC, Japanese, American and developing country representatives in Washington.

M Jacques Delors, the French Finance Minister who played host to the EEC ministers, said the importance of placing debt on the summit agenda was agreed unanimously. He described the effect of higher American interest rates as

"truly dramatic", and said that France had tabled proposals, including strengthening the role of the international financial institutions, for dealing with the debt issue to be discussed at a meeting of the Group of 10 industrial governments on Wednesday.

However, it does not appear that the EEC finance ministers were able to reach agreement on the type of measures that should be introduced.

A variety of schemes for limiting the rate of interest to be paid by developing countries emerged from last week's meeting of central bankers in New York, but a majority of summit governments appears to be opposed to the idea of interest-rate subsidies, while the commercial banks are opposed to straightforward capitalization of interest payments.

From the trade talks in

Washington it became clear that EEC countries are reluctant to endorse the joint American-Japanese call for a new round of trade talks, preferring to see more preparatory talks on specific issues. Further harmonizing of American-Japanese relations came with the announcement of outline proposals by the Japanese Government for liberalization of financial markets, which will be revealed in detail during bilateral trade talks on May 21.

This will follow a full meeting of ministers of all 24 industrial governments which are members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, due in Paris next weekend, which is likely to settle all outstanding trade issues ahead of the summit.

The Japanese financial package is expected to end the deadlock in negotiations over

funds for the International Development Agency, the soft-loan arm of the World Bank, which the American Administration has been blocking in an attempt to force Japan to take further action to open up its financial markets.

In Washington, the United States also came under fire from developing nations, arguing that it was impossible to repay their debts while the United States restricted their exports.

The EEC finance ministers reserved some time for discussion of budgetary issues, launching further studies to be prepared for their formal meetings on June 4, and the development of the European Monetary System. The British Government, however, made it clear it had no plans to apply for full membership at the moment.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Recession "likely in 1986"

Britain's economic recovery will continue throughout this year and next, boosted by a buoyant world economy, but recession is likely in 1986, according to a Chartered Institute of Management, the banking and financial services group, in its latest quarterly *Business Forecast*.

Despite growth of 2.75 per cent this year and 2.25 per cent in 1985, the group expects unemployment to go on rising slowly. It says the Government may have to push interest rates up further by the end of the year to curb money growth and inflation.

DEBRETT, which turned the tracing of people's ancestors into a business, is now hoping to do the same with the power struggles of companies through a new company, Debreth's Business History Research. Debreth hopes companies will bring it in to sort out their archives and that this may lead to a history being written and possibly published.

CANNO ASSURANCE has been sold by Cascade Group, its Canadian owner, to Lincoln National of Fort Wayne, Indiana. The deal is believed to be worth between £40m and £50m.

FIAT HAS become the first Italian company to win the European Federation of Financial Analysts Societies' award for the best accounts produced by a diversified group.

RECENT PRICE volatility has prompted the board of directors of the Chicago Board of Trade to double the initial maintenance and hedge margins for all CBT financial futures contracts.

## Lloyds urged to reduce Scottish stake

By Jeremy Warner

Lloyds Bank is once more being urged to reduce its shareholding in the Royal Bank of Scotland Group to avoid the possibility of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission reference.

Mr Charles Winter, managing director of the Scottish part of the group, which also takes in William & Glyn's, told *The Times*: "The best solution is for Lloyds to narrow its stake from 21.3 per cent to the former level of 16.4 per cent."

"We are still mystified by the bank's action last December in increasing the shareholding. I regard its stated reason of putting pressure on us to sell our minority holdings in our Lloyds and Scottish finance house as a red herring."

The Office of Fair Trading has recommended that Lloyds be referred for increasing its stake and the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Norman Tebbit, has until June 16 to decide whether to accept this advice.

## Maxwell may bid for Bishopsgate

By Jonathan Clare

Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing & Communication Corporation is likely to make a disguised rights issue by bidding for an investment trust.

BPCC is believed to be the potential suitor, which approached the Bishopsgate Trust last week but yesterday it was still unclear whether other bidders had emerged.

Mr Maxwell, unexpectedly in London yesterday, has also delayed until today publication of BPCC's annual report, which is expected to be optimistic.

The report and accounts will clarify how much cash BPCC needs to maintain its recovery. More than three-quarters of shares are in the hands of Mr Maxwell's private company, Pergamon Press.

An investment trust could be acquired and liquidated to release cash. Shares in Bishopsgate, managed by Hambros Bank, were trading last week at 187p, just a few pence below net asset value.

But results for the year to



Maxwell surprise visit to London

March, expected any day, is expected to show a big increase in net assets. Last year's report showed a net asset value of £41.6m and the trust is almost certainly now worth more than £50m.

The Provincial holds almost a quarter of the shares; almost half are in the hands of the four biggest shareholders — the Pru, Standard Life, The Equitable Life, and Investment Trust Units.

## Tax interest concession

By Ian Griffiths

The Government is set to introduce amendments to the Finance Bill to relax the provisions for interest charges on capital gains tax arising from assessments on the gains of discretionary trusts set up overseas but for the benefit of residents of Britain.

The Finance Bill will ensure that tax does not fall due until the gains are received. However, under the provision to be amended, interest which had accrued before March 29 on tax assessed under the *Lord v Lewis* ruling remains payable.

Clauses dealing with non-resident trusts were reintroduced in the 1984 Finance Bill in an attempt to iron out an anomaly created by the decision

## Esal rescue deal nears deadline

By Philip Robinson

Esal (Commodities) and its associated companies will go into receivership a week today unless creditors owed \$6.36m (£4.0m) sign a \$45m rescue package by 5 pm tomorrow.

At a creditors' meeting held in the Barbican Centre in London last week, trade creditors and seven London branches of international banks failed to agree that the rescue of Esal, which has debts of \$212m, was worthwhile.

The creditors feel that the banks should pay out some cash as goodwill. The banks refused point blank to pay out any money immediately, and argued that the \$5m worth of standby credit and \$40m worth of confirming facilities are sufficient signs of goodwill.

The package, which has taken four months to produce under leadership of the Punjab National Bank, needs approval from creditors owed a total of \$190m. So far it has the signatures of those owed \$184m. By far the largest of these are the banks themselves which are owed \$166m.

None of the former directors of Esal, a small trader in physical and future commodities, is presently in the country. The former chairman, Mr Rajendra Sethia, has pledged further assets to act as collateral. These are being independently valued but he says they are worth \$18m.

Suggestions by trade creditors that these should be taken and liquidated, giving each creditor between 30 and 40 cents in the dollar, were rejected by the banks.



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## ORDINARY SHARES

## Big moves afoot in transport

Alan Kelsey and Antony Nash

The transport sector of Britain's stock market (excluding the shipping companies) is, at present, capitalized at only £350m.

Although the business activities encompassed range from ports management to freight forwarding, the sector is dominated by British road haulage. This is an industry which is highly fragmented, has had a difficult history and the profitability of which has been highly variable.

What is of attraction in the transport sector is the high quality of management of the quoted companies within it, such as Transport Development Group, United Parcels and Associated British Ports - the three largest - and the unique position of the sector on the borderline between state and private ownership. The reasons for a strong state presence are numerous, but prominent among them is the strong role that central regulation has to play in transport activities.

Within the last two years two important publicly owned transport companies have been privatized. The first was the imaginative management/employee buy-out of the National Freight Consortium. The NFC, which has thrived since then, is the largest road transport concern in Britain and includes such household names as BRS and Pickfords.

It is not certain whether or not the NFC will, in the future, come to the stock market but, even if it does not, the greater freedom which the management now enjoys has meant that the NFC has achieved reflects not only the higher level of activity currently enjoyed but also the success of the group's more commercial approach to its operations.

In February last year, Associated British Ports came to the market when the Government sold half of the company. This privatization has been very successful as well, not only because of the improved profits recorded since then and the greater management freedom enjoyed, but also because of the high degree of employee participation in the ownership of the company (as with the NFC).

British Airways is expected to come to the market in the spring of next year. This company alone is likely to more than treble the size of the transport sector and to concentrate investment attention more strongly upon it.

In line behind British Airways for possible future market entry from the public sector are the British Airports Authority and the National Bus Company and, from the private sector, British Caledonian and British Midland Airways.

Whether all these companies come to the stock market in the event cannot be predicted accurately but the potential addition in size and content is substantial and of international interest. No important concern is quoted anywhere in the world, while BA will be the world's largest quoted international airline.

With the exception of the National Bus Company, all the likely newcomers are air transport-related companies and British investors will need to learn about a completely new world. Air transport is a highly regulated industry.

The British airlines industry awaits the outcome of two

inquiries which, together with the scheduled privatization of British Airways, will profoundly affect the future structure of the industry. Until the outcomes of the inquiry into the future development of Stansted Airport and the Civil Aviation Authority consultation on air-line competition policy are clear, future prospects are uncertain.

Whatever the outcomes, however, the fundamental strengths of both British Airways and the British Airports Authority, which derive from the position of Heathrow as the largest and most important international airport in the world, are unlikely to be materially affected.

The lobbying of the Government and the Civil Aviation Authority by the independent airlines has been intensified by the prospect of a commercial British Airways entering the private sector with a slimmed down workforce and a relatively new and forceful management. There are fears of abuse of its dominant position and cross-subsidization leading to the virtual elimination of British independent competition.

The expression of these fears serves to emphasize the attractiveness of British Airways to the potential investor. Similar fears are expressed concerning the possible denationalization of the British Airports Authority which, unlike British Airways, has an unblemished profit record.

Attractive though these potential new companies may be, an investment in transport need

not wait for their advent. Associated British Ports, in particular, appears attractive now. The recent sale by the Government of its remaining shares has increased marketability and removed the stock overhang.

ABP (as with British Airways and British Airports) is in a unique position. It is the largest operator in its market and has the natural benefit of its geographical locations in the south and east. It has rationalized its operating structure and successfully introduced new working practices.

Additionally, it is well poised to benefit from increasing trade volumes. Its new-found management freedoms have enabled it, meanwhile, to embark upon joint ventures - most notably the Freeport at Southampton and the development of some of its property that would otherwise have little commercial use. The miners' disruption of coal movements has cast a shadow at the moment - and depressed the share price.

Nevertheless, the long term potential remains undimmed and the shares should be bought.

Elsewhere, United Parcels has not yet seen rates for its services harden, despite improved volumes; when it does the shares should go ahead. TDG, which has the deserved reputation of a very well-managed company, is also worth looking at, as most parts of its business is doing very well and it has a useful dividend yield.

Strong outperformances, however, may have to wait until TDG proves that it has diversified sufficiently away from British road haulage.

The authors are research partner and analyst respectively, at Kitcat & Aitken.

The gilt-edged market duly received last Wednesday the base-rate increase it had been looking for in the previous two weeks. The reasons for the rise, however, were only obliquely related to the underlying monetary situation and domestic economic fundamentals.

Let us consider the recent growth of the monetary aggregates. Over the last three, six and 12 months, the principal aggregates were comfortably within their target ranges. Only the broadest aggregate, PSL2, is showing any untoward buoyancy, which is a reflection of the rapid growth of building society deposits and has more of a message for the housing market than for the economy or financial markets as a whole.

In spite of this sound, underlying picture, the market had begun to have worries over the money supply. These, however, were largely based on a single month's bad figures, in particular the 1 1/4 per cent rise in sterling M3 in banking March, together with the expectation of a figure almost as bad for banking April.

In the event, this expectation was wrong and sterling M3's growth in April was only a half of 1 per cent. It is true that bank lending increased by no less than £1 1/2 bn, but the fact that the market soon shrugged off Tuesday's generally good monetary news demonstrates that it is currently, to a degree, in a mood of selectively paying attention to bad news.

The glooms mood was further encouraged by the feeling that the authorities may face funding difficulties during the current financial year. This is despite the fact that the amount of gilt-edged stock that the Government needs to sell this year will probably be lower than in 1983-4, or even than the £8.25 bn average of the previous four years. This pessimism is partly based on the profile of the PSBR, which is likely to be much higher in the first half of

## THE GILT-EDGED MARKETS

## Good news fails to check the pessimistic tack

Robert Thomas and Geoffrey Dennis

the year than in the second, when the Government's finances will benefit from higher receipts of VAT and the expected proceeds from the British Telecom sale. The PSBR will probably be about £5 bn in the first half of the financial year and only half this level thereafter. The uneven pattern for the PSBR does not have strong implications for the pattern of monetary growth within 1984-5.

The needs of companies for external, and hence bank, finance, are likely to rise in the second half of the year to meet the higher VAT payments and to finance an expected bringing forward of fixed-capital investment. Indeed, these potential pressures on bank lending later in the year could become a more significant domestic influence on monetary conditions than the high PSBR in the next few months.

These domestic anxieties have now been added to, indeed overtaken, by events in the US, where the combination of rising short-term rates and a firm dollar has been impossible to resist. Higher US interest rates, when the dollar is weak may have little effect on British markets, but the present combination is another matter.

For much of last week, three-month interbank rates were above those consistent with the new 9-9/4 per cent base rate level. This raised some fears that base rates might have to rise further and suggested that only a relatively subdued technical rally could have been

expected. There are, however, no apparent domestic reasons for a further rise in base rates at the current time.

Overall, this recent phase in the gilt-edged market illustrates the belief that the authorities may be entering a period in which they will have to work harder to achieve the desired level of debt sales.

The period since the Conservatives came to power in May, 1979, may be conveniently divided, in market terms, into two periods of similar length with the watershed being the peak in yields in November, 1981. Before then, funding had been made difficult for many years by a series of high budget deficits relative to national income. Between 1979 and 1981, with uncertainty over the long-term inflation outlook, the Government Broker had to nurture the market carefully and be willing to innovate.

The outcome was the more extensive use of partly-paid stocks, the practice of issuing mini-taps and most notably the introduction of index-linked stocks in March, 1981. Although the authorities generally did not cut the prices of existing issues aggressively below current market prices, they con-

tinued to use the "Duke of York" device. The peak clearing bank base rate of 17 per cent in late-1979 when gilt-edged yields reached 15 per cent and more was a clear example. The tactic was even extended to the index-linked market in July, 1981, when real yields were pushed up sharply to over 3 1/2 per cent. After November, 1981, funding conditions improved dramatically and the great bull market of 1982 followed. The tighter fiscal stance further enhanced the Government Broker's ability to achieve his funding objectives.

In short, he was able to time his issues of stock (and the type of stock in question) more to his own initiative. One outcome was a decline in the volume of long-dated issues to facilitate the authorities' long-term interest burden and to encourage the re-opening of the corporate bond market.

Although there are fears that the authorities may be facing a return to the pre-November, 1981, situation, both the lower estimated required level of sales in the current financial year and sales of some £1m in banking April suggest that any such problems are liable to be short-lived. In our first article in this series on January 23, we concluded that the bear market in gilt-edged securities that was normal at this stage of the business cycle was unlikely to materialize, that there was unlikely to be a clear trend in gilt-edged prices for much of 1984, but that if US interest rates rose significantly, while the dollar remained firm, there would be upward pressure on British rates.

In the pre-Budget period, the market was on a bull track while most recently it has been on a bear track. Nothing that has happened since January has caused us to change our view that the market would be a fluctuating one in which short-term timing would be important.

Robert Thomas is the Economics Partner and Geoffrey Dennis is Senior Economist at W. Greenwell, the stockbroker.

## USM REVIEW

## Oilman goes to market to finance winning streak

As Texan oilmen go, Mr Alva Hickerson might well be at home on the set of the television soap opera *Dallas*, but the achievements of the Ewing family in the world of oil exploration pale into insignificance against his real-life achievements.

He has been exploring for oil for more than 30 years, from Colorado to Haiti, having dropped out of Texas law school in 1953 to develop his first acreage. The job of finding a backer to help finance and develop the site proved lengthy, but successful. He never returned to law school.

Over the past couple of years Mr Hickerson has again been putting together his own oil and gas exploration company, PetroGen, which has applied for a quote on the Unlisted Securities Market.

The stockbroker Laing & Cruckshank will be offering 4 million shares of common stock with no par value at 80p a share. This represents about 40 per cent of the equity and values the entire company at £8.2m.

PetroGen hopes to raise £2.8m from the issue which will then be placed on deposit until Mr Hickerson can find suitable investment ventures in both America and Europe.

The secret of Mr Hickerson's success lies in his ability to use American tax laws to the full. The technique is simple. PetroGen acquires site which it thinks contains plentiful oil and gas then invites operators and American investors with high levels of tax to finance to drilling.

If commercial quantities are discovered, PetroGen puts up the tangible costs of completing the well and splits the revenue equally with the operator. But if the venture proves a failure the investors, or operator, will claim full costs from the taxman and the cost of PetroGen is kept to a minimum.

PetroGen has already struck an agreement with Alamo Securities, and independent oil and gas operator in the United States, to finance a drilling programme of \$4m a year over the next three years from investors in West Virginia.

PetroGen also has a majority shareholding in Petrodan, a Danish company, which has applied for an exploration and production licence for two onshore blocks in Denmark.



Mr Hickerson: Prospects appear impressive.

Petrodan has teamed up with Aminoil, another United States oil company, which has agreed to meet the cost of pre-drilling expenses to the tune of \$500,000.

Meantime PetroGen has acquired a working interest in eight wells in the West Wattenberg field, Colorado, from Mr Hickerson, seven of which are already in production and command a discounted cash flow of \$5.6m.

But it is PetroGen's other projects with Aminoil and Alamo where Mr Hickerson sees the real profit growth coming from. "We want to be as fast into a profit as we can", he says.

His enthusiasm is shared by the group's chief geologist Mr Jan Gording, reputed to be Denmark's top geologist, who is convinced there is oil in commercial quantities to be found on PetroGen's site in Denmark, and says the group has already decided to take part in the second round of exploration licences this year.

PetroGen is a new company with no record and the risk to potential investors could be considered higher than is usual with most exploration companies. But Mr Hickerson's experience and successes must count for something.

He is already looking for returns on the Aminoil project of six to eight times his initial investment, so the growth prospects appear impressive. Applications for shares open on May 15.

Microvitec is another company with good growth potential that has announced its intention of joining the USM. Microvitec, is Britain's leading manufacturer of computer

colour monitors, fits most leading makes of micro computers, including Acorn and Sinclair, and has been approved by the Department of Trade.

Last week, it launched a new monitor which Mr Tony Martinez, the chairman, hopes will be a winner. The launch coincided with details of its offer for sale on the USM. The merchant banker Hill Samuel and the broker W. Greenwell is offering 7.3 million shares (26 per cent) at 180p, putting it on a p/e of 36. This values the whole company at nearly £49m.

Microvitec was formed in 1979, which means it just fails to qualify for a full listing, which requires a trading record of at least five years. But Mr Martinez cannot wait another year for further financing and says the money is needed now if the company is to maintain its strong growth and maintain its lead in the market.

Last year, pretax profits jumped from £195,000 to £2.5m on sales of £9.6m. Mr Martinez says it is too early to make a forecast for the current year but is looking for another healthy increase in profits, and confirms sales are substantially ahead of the same period last year.

At first glance the shares look a little expensive but, if the growth record can be maintained, this fancy rating should be justified. The price should open at a healthy premium when dealings start on May 4.

Godwin Warren Control Systems, which makes parking systems and railway buffers, has been a keen favourite of many USM watchers since joining the USM nearly a year ago at 57p. Last week's news of a substantial increase in profits last year will only serve to strengthen the group's following.

After producing a sizable increase at the half-way stage, pretax profits for 1983 rose 54 per cent to £309,000 on sales up from £3.08m to £3.4m. A total net dividend of 1.4p has already been forecast.

Over the past few months Godwin has announced several important contracts.

Analysts are hoping that several more large contracts will be announced shortly to help maintain the group's momentum. The shares closed on Friday at 113p.

Michael Clark

## APPOINTMENTS

## Assurance society chief

Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society: Lord Arbuthnot, the deputy chairman, has been elected to succeed Sir Michael Herries, as chairman of the Society, Pensions Management (SWF), Scottish Widows Unit Funds and Scottish Widows Fund Management for the three years to 1987. Sir Michael, whose term of office as chairman has now expired, is the new deputy chairman of all four companies.

Authority Investments: Lord Lever of Manchester has been appointed an additional director and chairman of the board of the company and of its wholly-owned subsidiary, Knowsley and Co. Mr Brian Sandelson, who has been acting chairman since the death of Sir John Foster, has become deputy chairman of both companies. Guinness Mahon & Co: Mr John G. Woolfenden has been made a director to head the Venture Capital unit. Boddingtons' Breweries: Mr Ewart A. Boddington, chairman and managing director, will relinquish his role as managing director from July 1 and Mr Hubert V. Reid, currently assistant managing director, has been named managing director in his place. Mr Boddington will continue as executive chairman.

## Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9 1/4%
Barclays	8 1/4%
BCCI	8 1/4%
Citibank Savings	1 3/4%
Consolidated Creds	8 1/4%
Continental Trust	8 1/4%
C. Hoare & Co	9 1/4%
Lloyds Bank	8 1/4%
Midland Bank	9 1/4%
Nat Westminster	9 1/4%
TSE	9 1/4%
Williamsons & Glyn's	9 1/4%
Citibank NA	9 1/4%



Fairy tales can come true.

There's a little magic in every glass of Martini Dry. In its clean, fresh taste. In its unique blend of the choicest wines and herbs. But, most magical of all, it doesn't have to disappear at midnight.





[illegible]



# Great rivalry revived as Middlesex and Essex share points

## Lancashire throw off their cares

## King century leads a victory charge

Somerset were not without hope, for Botham was playing with conviction, using all the strokes,

## Century leads by charge

BOWLING. Malone 8-0-37-2; Reiter 8-0-28-2; Tremlett 8-0-31-1. Cowley 8-2-38-1; Nicholas 8-0-38-2.

Umpires: D G L Evans and A G T Whishead.

# Stewart a slash off the old block

Surrey lost Butcher who was captaining them, in the first over and Knight, who looked to be playing rather well, in the eleventh.

**XFORC:** Combined Universities 193 for 6 (A Miller 91, J D Carr 50). Surrey 184 for 8 (M Lynch 85). Surrey won by 1 wicket. Goal awarded: A J T Miller.  
Winners gain two points

manner at Moortown yesterday when he won the £100,000 Car Club Plan International for the second successive year. He left it last year stealing the glory as Howard Clark allowed a two-stroke advantage to evaporate over the last four holes but it was nevertheless a triumph.

**MODESTO, California:** Women's 100 metre  
1. E Asford 10.78sec (wind assisted).  
**BAKKE:** Soviet women's methathon. 1. Z Ivanova  
2hr 31min 11sec (Soviet best).  
**BRITISH LEAGUE:** First division

There had been the prospect of Waites squeezing into the picture, but he took three putts at the hole. And Rivero's late rally, which included birdies at the fifteenth and sixteenth holes, proved to be

(Japanese unless stated): 212: T Li-Hai (Tai), 74, 71, 71. 217: H Higuchi, 73, 72. 218: Tu A-Yu (Tai), 72, 73, 71. 220: P Shoen (US), 76, 75, 68. 221: N Yoshikawa, 71, 72.

NEWPORT: Welsh Annular Stroke

# Spanish

**MODERN PENTATHLON**  
BUDAPEST: International meeting: Equi-  
ndem: 1, G Pajor (Hung), 1,062pts: 2, I. Sze-  
(Mex), 1,000; 3, C Massullo (It), 1,070.  
pleting: 1, Hungary B, 3,164pts: 2,  
3,090; 3, Hungary A, 3,082.

# renaissance

**Rex Bellamy**

be. It Aguilera's mood had left  
Noah The fragile beauty he had  
the before us vanished as if it had

1980s. These wireless valley of the  
 LALE: Wagners, Europan, 100;  
 Netherlands 2, Soviet Union 0. Third place  
 West Germany 1, England 0. Fifth  
 Ireland 2, Scotland 0. Seventh place:  
 Belgium 0. Ninth place: Czechoslovakia  
 France 0. Eleventh place: Austria 1, Italy 1.

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at him,  
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Post  
name-off  
place:  
Spain 1  
valda 2  
nyl

did say that if ever he could help out of a spot he would do so". Mike Turner, Leicestershire's secretary manager, said.

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 Belgium 0. Ninth place: Czechoslovakia  
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nyl.































## Unita frees hostages after visit by envoy

Continued from page 1

emony for Sir John, accompanied by much chanting of anti-Cuban and anti-Soviet slogans. Dr Savimbi said Unita found it hard to understand why Britain, "The cradle of democracy in the old continent", should "be the one to support totalitarianism. A fortiori in the presence of the fierce resistance of the majority of the Angolan people".

Describing the current peace initiatives in southern Africa as evidence of good will and political realism, Dr Savimbi said it would indeed be strange if Britain, which more than anyone else knows this area, were not to play its part as a mediator now for the safeguard of western interests that are also hers.

Of his talks with Dr Savimbi, Sir John said that there had never been any question of recognizing Unita. "We do not recognize movements or, in our case, even governments. We recognize states."

Evidence that Britain may have underestimated Unita's military potential in the past came from two of the released hostages. Mr Robert Jones the area manager of the Kafunio mines, and Mr Ian Smythe, a metallurgist, told *The Times* that late last year Mr Marack Goulding, the British Ambassador in Luanda, had assured Britons working in Kafunio that Unita posed no threat to the town.

The tribulations of the Britons began just before 5 am on February 23. "I was woken by what sounded like golf balls cracking against the outside of my house", Mr Smythe said. "In fact, it was sub-machine gun fire."

Eventually Unita soldiers rounded up the Britons and some of the other foreigners, mainly Portuguese, and marched them south. Sometimes they walked for 20 hours a day, drinking water from streams and feeding on cassava and mealie-meal, with occasional small amounts of meat.

● **Freed Britons named:** A British Embassy spokesman in Johannesburg named the freed Britons as Neil Ayres, Ian Felton, Robert Jones, Hywel Lloyd, William Morgan, Thomas Murphy, Graham and Vera Poppelwell, Douglas Samuel, Ian Smythe, J Dougherty, Kenneth Moffat, K Saunders, A Tasker, A Dixon, Robin Kennedy and Dennis Clawson.

## Runners who made it the world's biggest marathon



Winners: Charles Spedding, first man home, and Ingrid Kristensen, first woman.



Freckles: One young contestant going strongly.

Continued from page 1

woman home, revealed she had trained in a miner's helmet to see in the dark.

For the men, the day belonged to Gateshead Harriers, the running club which provided both the first and second overall winners, Charles Spedding, of Durham, first across the line in 2:09.57, is a former 10,000 metres track runner.

His said he might have improved his time had not the stiff cool breeze slowed him.

His clobmate, Kevin Forster, was close behind him at 2:11.41. Dennis Fowles, in third place at 2:12.12, set a world marathon record for a Welshman.

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, the Greater London Council leader, said at the prize-giving ceremony that, whatever political fate the GLC suffered, the 1985 London Marathon was safe.

Leading article, page 15

Sport, page 25

Men's times

World record (Alberto Salazar, New York, 1981) 2:06.13  
British record (Geoff Smith, New York, 1983) 2:09.08  
1984 London winning time 2:09.57  
1983 London winning time 2:08.43  
1984 winner's personal time 2:11.54

Women's times

World record (Jean Benoit, Boston, 1983) 2:22.43  
British record (Joyce Smith, London, 1982) 2:29.43  
1984 London winning time 2:24.26  
1983 London winning time 2:25.29  
1984 winner's personal time 2:27.51



Clownsing: In it for laughs, perhaps.



Finished: A successful contestant being taken to hospital.

## Letter from Majorca

### A beachhead against the high-rise hordes

Where do the wise locals of Majorca, Spain's tourist boom island, *par excellence*, go nowadays to find a really good beach?

Es Trenc is the answer, the best long stretch of sandy beach still unspoiled on the Balearic island. Thanks to local politicians aligning themselves with changed island public opinion, it looks like staying a beauty spot for future generations.

With its hinterland of dunes, woods and bird and other wild life, Es Trenc will, if all goes well with a Bill in its closing stages in the Balearic Islands' regional Parliament, be saved from one of those typical development projects known as *urbanisations*. This ugly word is all too often appropriate for the architect chosen by promoters who have irreparably scarred Majorca's fine coastline, as elsewhere in Spain, building chalets and blocks of flats as holiday homes.

But while the "townies" like the Palma conservationist groups, reckon they can soon celebrate a famous victory, the local farmers around the dusty old agricultural town of Campos are a great deal less happy. Many, knowing how elsewhere farmers turned themselves into millionaires, selling sites to construction firms, would be delighted to do business with a big Swedish development company which had planned to buy their land to build chalets and flats for 3,000 people - half as many again as the entire population of Campos.

The farmers have a problem which makes the rate of land seem even more attractive - the growing salinization from the sea of what were once good agricultural fields due to the excessive demands of the tourist industry on Majorca's always deficient water supply. The problem has been aggravated by three consecutive years of drought.

It has not yet come to blows between the farmers and the ecological groups from Palma, but heavy chains put across the road to Es Trenc by irate local farmers were meant to show that if they were stopped disposing of their land as they wish, the "townies" will not enjoy the beach either.

You drive by a few cornfields, some cattle and flocks of sheep and then among towering cactus plants and a profusion of poppies and

hardy wild flowers sown to the edge of the dunes.

Light green water laps at rocks, but beyond them the beach stretches away for miles till, far on the horizon, you can make out exactly the kind of development Es Trenc was threatened with - the high-rise flats of Sant Jordi.

A wealthy-beaten farmer in his late 60s tells me the basic problem (insisting he is speaking Castilian, but lapsing always into Mallorquin): "The water here is now very bad. The sun comes and it burns up everything. It leaves us only with the salt."

As we talk a big tanker-lorry goes by, bringing drinking water. None of the old windmills turn any more, for the wells are too shallow. Es Trenc means in Mallorquin The Beach, where the sea water found an inlet.

Señor Carlos Romero, the Spanish Agriculture Minister, came last August and approved a scheme to carry water from Palma for reuse here by agriculture. However, the farmers are concerned because Campos has yet to see that pipeline being built.

"Nowhere else in Europe could a zone of such importance for wild life and natural beauty be handed over for development," said Señor Javier Pastor, chairman of the Balearic Group for the Defence of Nature and Wildlife.

Nevertheless, victory is within grasp against the developers, and this on an island where three quarters of economic activity derives from tourism.

Majorca shows vividly how democracy has allowed for the expression of the changed national mood since the uncontrolled economic development under the Franco regime.

Professor Miquel Morey, holder of the first chair of ecology at Palma University, grew up in one of those small Majorca fishing villages later sacrificed to the developers. He said: "Public opinion has been very important, but unfortunately in Spain there is still too little coordinated planning to avoid confrontations like Es Trenc."

He gave a warning, however: "We cannot simply prohibit. There must be assistance to the farmers in the zones protected from development."

Richard Wigg

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

#### Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Fellow of the North East Coast Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders, attends a dinner at the Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, in connection with the centenary celebrations of the Institution, 7.10. The Prince and Princess of Wales attend a banquet given at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W.1, 7.30.

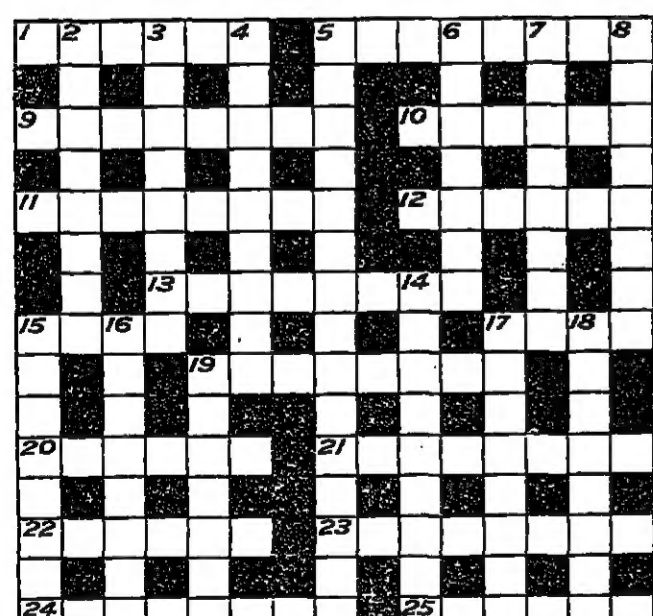
Princess Anne, Patron of the Riding for the Disabled Association, opens the Cobles Meadow Group

Indoor Riding School at Chatham, Kent, 10.30; and later, as Patron of the Home Farm Trust, opens Lympne Place, Kent, 12.30; and also, as President of the Save the Children Fund, attends the Giverny collection fashion show at Guildhall, London, 7.40.

The Duke of Gloucester, Patron of the Council for Education in Wales, Citizenship, opens his exhibition "Peace Through Education" at the House of Commons, 4.55.

Prince Michael of Kent opens the British Car Auctions premises at Watton Summit, Preston, 11.30.

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,429



#### ACROSS

- 1 Agree to no money backing for author (8).
- 2 Outlaws players taking it both ways (8).
- 3 More like Samson or the lion in his middle (8).
- 4 William Bickelstaff comprehends such verses (6).
- 5 Hard after record about man's prompitude (8).
- 6 Like a sea-bird following a ship (6).
- 7 Nobleman in swindle at back of car? (4,4).
- 8 Invites failure to commence duties (4).
- 9 A team's reference line (4).
- 10 "Golden" kiss your eyes" (Dekker) (8).
- 11 Where a bird sat on the Cardinal's chair (6).
- 12 Was flute perhaps prodigal? (8).
- 13 A bit cold in the country, we hear (6).
- 14 Makes public journey - starting here perhaps? (8).
- 15 Odd pair shun Omar's birthplace (8).
- 16 Comparatively inflated, and getting red (6).

#### DOWN

- 2 Sketches ways to escape? (8).

#### 3 Dispensers who miss sisters (8).

- 4 Light flan cooked in the evening (9).
- 5 Johnson's work for Saint-Just (11,4).
- 6 Raises drafts (5,2).
- 7 Vat said to be one containing a blue mix for these scenes (8).
- 8 In sight and hearing, say, gets dander up (8).
- 9 Realist most moved about manne hazard (9).
- 10 Can one more come to grief in the National? (8).
- 11 Study of movement of cattle spasms (8).
- 12 Declared to be a hair-raising journalist (8).
- 13 Brighten up! You sound to be in a bad hole (8).
- 14 Doctors rejected other things in Africa (7).

**The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No. 16,428 will appear next Saturday**

### Nature notes

Swallows are less common this year: this may be due in part to the loss of migrants as they passed through the Southern Saharan drought, but the steady demolition of old barns and cowsheds, in which they used to nest, is probably a further reason. Swifts are back in the skies, but not yet round the roofs where they breed: for the moment, they range far and wide, hunting for flying insects. Nightjars rest all day among the low branches, at dusk they sing and feed, trying for up to five minutes at a time from a fire-tree branch, then twisting and darting among the trees after moths and roaming beetles.

Rich grass, aromatic leaves are opening on the walnut trees. On crab-apples the blossom is turning whiter, as the pink fades from the underside of the petals. The coarse green leaves of ground-elder are spreading at the foot of roadside walls. Blue flowers are showing among the heart-shaped leaves of ground ivy. Lady's smock and garlic mustard (or 'jack-by-the-hedge') are in bloom; both are favourite food-plants of the caterpillars of the orange-tip butterfly, and newly-emerged adults are already gathering round them to lay their eggs.

D J M

### Anniversaries

Births: Thomas Gainsborough, baptised, Sudbury, Suffolk, 1727; Robert Owen, pioneer of Socialism, Newtown, Powys, 1771. Deaths: August Strindberg, dramatist, Stockholm, 1912; Edmund Henry, 1st Viscount of Alington, field marshal, Southwell, Nottinghamshire, 1936. *Illustrated London News* first published, 1842.

### The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.51	1.51
Austria Sch	28.20	28.20
Belgium Fr	26.60	26.60
Canada \$	1.84	1.77
Denmark Kr	14.56	13.86
Finland Mk	8.38	7.98
France Fr	12.23	11.63
Germany DM	3.96	3.78
Greece Dr	157.00	147.00
Hongkong \$	11.20	10.60
Ireland P	1.29	1.23
Italy Lira	2,445.00	2,345.00
Japan Yen	331.00	315.00
Netherlands Gld	4.48	4.26
Norway Kr	11.28	10.73
Portugal Esc	198.00	188.00
Spain Ptas	2.22	2.07
Sweden Kr	11.75	11.15
Switzerland Fr	3.28	3.11
USA \$	1.43	1.38
Yugoslavia Dnr	205.00	185.00

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bond prizes are: £100,000: 14KW 316610 (winner lives in Manchester); £50,000: 81S 297966 (Surrey); £25,000: 2VT 788315 (Manchester).

### Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, report, first day. Lords (2.30): London Regional Transport Bill, committee, first day.

### Roads

London and South-east: Experimental traffic scheme on A4 Great West Road, at the junction with Windmill Road (B452); approach with caution. A41: Both carriageways reduced between A1, Barnet Way (Apex Corner) and Broadfield Avenue. Resurfacing northbound carriageway along A41, Finchley Road, between junctions with Adelaide Road and College Crescent, NW3.

Wales and West: Temporary traffic signals on A55 Bangor-Conwy road Penmaenmawr, M4: Contraflow between junctions 16 and 17 (Barnard Castle); both carriageways affected - also speed restrictions throughout - week-end.

Midlands: Contraflow between junction 3 (Birmingham) and junction 4 (Bromsgrove), Birmingham. A47: Temporary traffic signals on Wisbech-Peterborough road between Guyhirn and Thorney Toll, M1: Contraflow between junctions 16 and 17 (Barnard Castle); both carriageways affected - also speed restrictions throughout - week-end.

North: M62: Resurfacing between junctions 11 (Warrington East) and junction 12 (Manchester), Cheshire; contraflow. M6: Contraflow between junctions 32 and 33 (M55 and Lancaster), Lancashire; contraflow. A6: Roadworks at New Mills, Derbyshire.

Scotland: A74: Lane closures between Strathclyde regional boundary and Scotland/England border. A1: Milton Road East, nr Eastfield, A19: A74: Northbound carriageway closed at Beattock Summit; 2-way traffic on southbound carriageway.

Information supplied by AA

### Weather forecast

A ridge of high pressure from Scandinavia to SW Britain will slowly decline as a trough of low pressure crosses Northern Ireland and NW Scotland from the Atlantic.

6am to midnight

London, central S, SW England, E Midlands: Dry, sunny intervals, wind NE fresh; max temp 16-18C (61-64F). SE England, East Angles, Dry, sunny intervals; wind NE fresh, strong on coasts; max temp 12-13C (54-55F). E, NW, SW Wales, Lake District, Borders: Sunny periods; wind variable light; max temp 14-15C (57-59F).

Channel Islands: Sunny intervals, thundery rain later; wind NE strong; max temp 12C (54F). Isle of Man, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands, Moray Firth, bright, periods; wind SW light or moderate; max temp 15-17C (59-63F). NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, Northern Ireland: Rather cloudy, a little rain in places; wind SW veering W moderate or fresh; max temp 13-15C (55-59F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Most of England and Wales starting dry with sunny periods, but showers over Scotland and Northern Ireland spreading to W and N Britain. Temperatures generally near normal.

SEA PASSAGES: North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind NE fresh locally strong; sea very rough. S: George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind light, and variable. Sea smooth.

Information supplied by AA

### National Day

Paraguay today celebrates the anniversary of its independence from Spain in 1811. A landlocked country surrounded by Brazil, Bolivia and Argentina, it is the size of California and has a population of just over three million.

### The week's walks

Today: The London of Charles Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2. Westminster, 1.000 Years of History, meet Westminster Underground, 7.30. Discovering Clerkenwell, meet Clerkenwell Heritage Centre, 2.30 (daily).

Tomorrow: In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes, meet Covent Garden Underground, 11. Westminster and Parliament Square, meet Westminster Underground, 2. Haunted London, a ghost walk, meet Covent Garden Underground, 7.30. In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes, meet Embankment Underground, 11. Inside the London of Shakespeare, meet Pops meet Temple Underground, 2. The Famous Square Mile, 2.000 years of History, meet St Paul's Underground, 7.30. The Famous Sherlock Holmes Mystery Tour, meet Baker Street Underground, 7.30. Mysterious Interiors of Hidden London, meet Holborn Underground, King's Cross, 9.50 (also Wed, Thurs).

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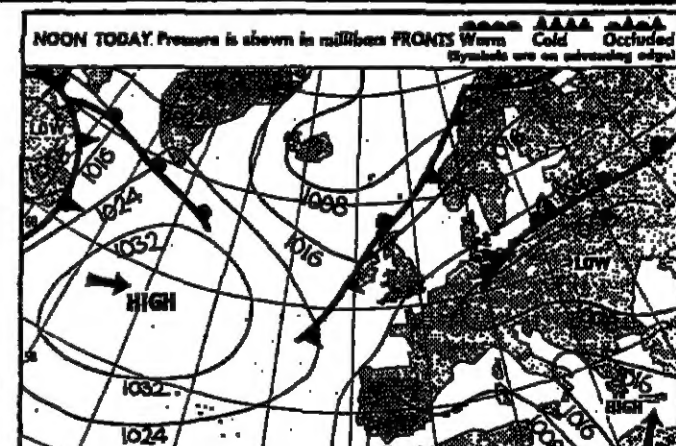
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Paraguay today celebrates the anniversary of its independence from Spain in 1811. A landlocked country surrounded by Brazil, Bolivia and Argentina, it is the size of California and has a population of just over three million.

### The week's walks

Today: The London of Charles Dickens, meet Holborn Underground, 10.30. London's Palaces, meet Embankment Underground, 2. Westminster, 1.000 Years of History, meet Westminster Underground, 7.30. Discovering Clerkenwell, meet Clerkenwell Heritage Centre, 2.30 (daily).

Tomorrow: In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes, meet Covent Garden Underground, 11. Westminster and Parliament Square, meet Westminster Underground, 2. Haunted London, a ghost walk, meet Covent Garden Underground, 7.30. In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes, meet Embankment Underground, 11. Inside the London of Shakespeare, meet Pops meet Temple Underground, 2. The Famous Square Mile, 2.000 years of History, meet St Paul's Underground, 7.30. The Famous Sherlock Holmes Mystery Tour, meet Baker Street Underground, 7.30. Mysterious Interiors of Hidden London, meet Holborn Underground, King's Cross, 9.50 (also Wed, Thurs).



High tides	
Location	Time
London Bridge	14.07
Aberdeen	1.19
Amsterdam	7.21
Belfast	11.07
Bombay	6.00
Boston	11.07
Buenos Aires	5.30
Calcutta	12.58
Cardiff	10.21
Cebu	8.27
Dublin	6.27
Edinburgh	1.19
Genoa	1.19
Hong Kong	1.19
Kobe	1.19
Lyons	1.19
Manila	1.19
Medan	1.19
Montevideo	1.19
Osaka	1.19
Paris	1.19
Perth	1.19
Rangoon	1.19
San Francisco	1.19
Singapore	1.19
Sourabaya	1.19
Tokyo	1.19
Yokohama	1.19

Around Britain	
Location	Time
London	10.08
Birmingham	10.08
Cardiff	10.08
Edinburgh	10.08
Genoa	10.08
Hong Kong	10.08
Kobe	10.08
Lyons	10.08
Manila	10.08
Medan	10.08
Montevideo	10.08
Osaka	10.08
Paris	10.08
Perth	10.08
Rangoon	10.08
San Francisco	10.08
Singapore	10.08
Sourabaya	10.08
Tokyo	10.08
Yokohama	10.08

Abroad	
Location	Time
London	10.08
Birmingham	10.08
Cardiff	10.08
Edinburgh	10.08
Genoa	10.08
Hong Kong	10.08
Kobe	10.08
Lyons	10.08
Manila	10.08
Medan	10.08
Montevideo	10.08
Osaka	10.08
Paris	10.08
Perth	10.08
Rangoon	10.08
San Francisco	10.08
Singapore	10.08
Sourabaya	10.08
Tokyo	10.08
Yokohama	10.08